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NO 7255 MONDAY, MAY 23, 1988 SHAWWAAL 8, 1408 AH 16 PAGES 150 FILLS

THE WORLD THIS MORNING

Five die in clashes

ISLAMABAD, (AP): The government has said that five people have been killed in six days of gun battles between Shiite and Sunni Muslims in mountainous northern Pakistan. "There is still a lot of tension which we have to watch out for," said a high-ranking Pakistani official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The fighting centred in the bazaar of the mountain resort of Gilgit, some 155 miles (248 kilometres) north of Islamabad.

Grenade attack

CAPE TOWN, (Reuters): Attackers lobbed hand grenades at blacks attending a political rally in Soweto killing two people and wounding more than 30, police and witnesses said. The attack at South Africa's biggest township came amid an upsurge of weekend violence. Five blacks were killed in shanty town battles in Natal province and blacks burned a 70-year-old white farmer to death near Johannesburg.

Gurkha militants

NEW DELHI, (AP): Gurkha militants seeking a homeland in northeast India have murdered two members of the Marxist Communist Party and an eight-year-old boy during raids on slum areas near Darjeeling, according to United News of India. Members of the Gurkha National Liberation Front, the umbrella group leading the two-year-old separatist campaign, raided Kalebong slum areas on Saturday night and set ablaze 25 homes, including that of the victims.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں
○ سکھ دہشت پسندوں نے
لداخ میں ریلوے سٹیشن پر بم بار
کر افرائقی پمیلادی
○ وزیر اعظم جو جیو کی طرف
سے سویت الزام کی تردید
○ ایران نے کیا ہے ہرز
میں جنگی مشین شروع کر دیں
○ چین میں زبردست طوفان
○ بیروت میں متحارب شیعہ
گروہوں کے مابین جھڑپیں
باری ہیں
○ مقبوضہ علاقہ میں اسرائیلی
فوجوں کی فائرنگ سے تین
فلسطینی شہید
○ پاکستان اپنی افواج کو جہد
اسلحہ سے لیس کرے گا

WEATHER

HOT summer weather with moderate to fresh northerly wind causing dust.
State of sea: moderate to rough
High water: 10.00 am, 4.00 pm
Low water: 11.00 am, 11.00 pm
Sunrise: 4.52 am
Sunset: 6.38 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 42°C 108°F
Ahmed: 40°C 104°F
Faisal: 39°C 102°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 24°C 75°F
Ahmed: 30°C 86°F
Faisal: 29°C 84°F
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 22 per cent
Ahmed: 28 per cent
Faisal: 30 per cent
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 22 per cent
Ahmed: 28 per cent
Faisal: 30 per cent

Walters arrives for talks

Back Gulf war resolution: US

THE US Ambassador to the United Nations, Vernon Walters, arrived in Kuwait from Baghdad yesterday to sound out Kuwaiti officials on the best ways of implementing UN calls for a ceasefire in the 7 1/2-year-old Gulf war, informed sources said.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified further, said the war between neighbouring Iraq and Iran along with the latest Middle East peace moves by Washington would top the talks.

Walters will hold talks today with HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah. The sources said the talks are also meant to pave the way for the visit which Sheikh Saad will pay to Washington in July.

Impression

In Baghdad, Walters urged the Soviet Union and China to support the UN Security Council resolution 598 aimed at enforcing a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

"Our impression is that they have not been forthcoming as we would like them to be, not been as helpful to get into the second resolution," he said. "They have told us in the past and we hope they will carry out

their word ... when the time comes they will support the enforcement action," he told reporters at Baghdad airport at the end of a 24-hour visit to Iraq. Walters said he had lengthy talks with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. They included the implementation of Security Council resolution 598.

"We discussed various strategies to move on to the second resolution, which is enforcement of measures against those who reject 598, a mandatory resolution," he said.

Pressing

"We had a full and very cordial exchange of views on the situation and what must be done to speed up an end to the war." The Security Council, in the resolution last July, ordered a halt to fighting. But Iran said Iraq must first be identified as the aggressor.

Washington has been pressing Security Council members to back a resolution ordering an arms embargo against Iran for non-compliance.

Walters said he also discussed Middle East issues and the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories. He said relations with Iraq were good and the United States hoped for further

improvement. Kuwait, whose shipping has been a particular target of Iranian attacks as part of Tehran's hostilities with Iraq, last year re-registered 11 of its oil tankers in the US. The US Navy now escorts these tankers during their voyage through the Gulf.

The US Navy task force in the Gulf, beefed for the escort purpose, has lately been empowered to broaden its protective mantle to non-US flag vessels if they are under attack in the vicinity of one of the warships.

Walters was received by Foreign Undersecretary Suleiman Majed Al Shaheen and US Ambassador to Kuwait Nathaniel Howell.

Walters will leave Kuwait today. He will also visit Saudi Arabia.

Warning

Meanwhile, Iraq said it shot down an Iranian F-14 fighter-bomber and a helicopter today in separate dogfights over the Gulf and the northern warfront.

The daily high command communiqué said Iraqi planes intercepted the US-made jet over the Gulf and downed it at noon. It said the Iranian plane exploded and fell into the sea in burning fragments.

Iraqi helicopter gunships spotted two Iranian Bell helicopters



Walters

over the northern war zone, the communiqué said. One was shot down and crashed in flames "in enemy territory" while the other fled.

Iran denied the Iraqi claim. Oman's Coastguard today warned the Iranian Navy to stay out of Omani waters as Tehran's forces began naval exercises near the Strait of Hormuz, shipping sources said.

The Coastguard also advised all unescorted tankers to stay clear of the narrow strait between Iran and Oman to avoid Iranian gunboats, which last week attacked two tankers.

Vessels

"All unescorted tankers in the area must take all necessary precautions as Iranian gunboats are in the area," said the message, monitored on maritime radio.

Iran today began naval manoeuvres involving more than 50 ships including "missile carrying destroyers" in the Gulf and waters just outside.

Tehran Radio said "helicopters, Air Force fighter planes and the airborne brigade of the Army" also were participating in the exercises.

The report appeared to indicate that virtually all of Iran's biggest naval vessels were involved in the exercises, codenamed "Zulfagar."

Saudis warn against unholy acts

CAIRO, May 22, (Kuna): Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Bin Abdul Aziz has said that Muslims should use politics to serve the religion and not vice versa.

Affirming that any act that divides Muslims and infringes upon their security is unacceptable to Islam, he told a news conference here that Iranian leaders were responsible for the rioting last year during the haj.

He said such conducts offend Muslims and desecrate the sanctity of the holy shrines. Replying to a question on the situation of Iranian pilgrims after breaking up of ties between the two countries, he said that the severance of relations has got nothing to do with haj.

He warned that he will not allow any conduct that exceeds the haj rituals or to use the holy season to serve any regime or person.

Speaking of anti-terrorism measures adopted by Saudi Arabia, Nayef said that terrorism is an international phenomenon requiring worldwide cooperation to curb it, adding that Arab states should take the initiative and start their own efforts in this respect.

He described his talks with Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr as "beneficial and fruitful."

Kurds clash

ANKARA, May 22, (Reuters): Two Turkish soldiers have been killed in a clash with Kurdish rebels who crossed into Turkey from Syria, state radio said today.

After renewal of residence People will be fined for failing to renew Civil IDs

By Lima Al Khalafawi

ACCORDING to a new policy to be implemented by the end of the year, people who do not renew their Civil Identification Card after renewing their residence (iqama) will be fined, the Director-general of the Public Authority for Civil Identification (Paci), Faisal Al Shaiji said.

This does not apply to people who have "registered for their cards but have not received them. Al Shaiji told the Arab Times yesterday.

He said that a new service would be offered to people in Kuwait by the end of this year whereby the authority would notify people one month before the expiry of their ID card and another reminder would be sent one month after the expiry date.

Service

Al Shaiji mentioned that the ID post service could be used for adding new-born infants to Civil ID cards and renewal of residence. Changes of address will be added to this service in the near future, he said.

Al Shaiji stressed that immediately after changing addresses, expatriates should go

personally to the Civil ID office in Farwaniya with the required documents so the authority can check the exact location of the new address through its computer system and on maps.

He explained that newly arrived non-Kuwaitis must register at the Farwaniya Paci office, providing their passports, three black and white photographs and fingerprint documents.

The director-general emphasised that children up to the age of five do not require photographs or fingerprints for their ID cards. Photographs are only required for those between the ages of five and 16, while photographs and fingerprints are required for persons above the age of 16.

Efficiency

He pointed out that the improved efficiency at the authority was due to the increase of its staff by 50 per cent enabling the distribution of cards without delays throughout the different areas of Kuwait.

About 3,000 cards are distributed daily, he said, which include renewals, changes in address and first registration.

Al Shaiji added that enquiries could be made by calling telephone numbers 2658520, 2658521, 2658522, or 2658525.

2 killed, 35 hurt in Punjab bomb blast

AMRITSAR, India, May 22, (Reuters): Sikh extremists exploded a bomb at a railway station in Punjab today, killing two of thousands of Hindu migrants fleeing the state for fear of attacks on them.

Police said 35 people, including migrant labourers, were hurt in the blast in the industrial city of Ludhiana in the morning.

They said one man was blown apart as he waited to buy a ticket home. Hospital officials said a 12-year-old boy died later of his injuries. They said 18 people were still in hospital with serious injuries.

The toll would have been higher if the bomb planted beside a second class ticket counter, had gone off while a crowd of about 50 people were watching a serial of a Hindu epic on a nearby television set, they said.

Sixty

The bomb went off just after the programme ended and the crowd had dispersed, police added.

Yesterday, Punjab police chief K.P.S. Gill ordered his men to protect migrant labourers in a bid to stop them from fleeing home to other states in fear of attacks by Sikh extremists, who are fighting to set up a separate state in Punjab called Khalistan (land of the pure).

Nearly 60 migrant labourers have been killed in the past week, part of the extremists' strategy to frighten Hindus out of Punjab, where Sikhs are barely in majority.

The migrant labourers are essential to the Punjab economy

and every year some 800,000 of them come looking for work in the prosperous agricultural state.

Gill said the attacks on migrant labourers had occurred mainly in central and southern Punjab, where witnesses said they were packing railway and bus stations to flee home.

Nearly 4,000 migrant labourers at a canal project in Punjab left for their homes after 30 of their colleagues were shot dead on Wednesday, hours after security forces needed a siege of the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Rituals

Sikh extremists burst into a farmhouse near Amritsar yesterday and shot dead a further nine canal labourers from Uttar Pradesh state.

In the Golden Temple, priests today resumed the daily rituals of hymn singing and scripture recitations. The rituals were suspended while security forces laid a 10-day siege to the complex, housing the shrine to flush out extremists hiding there.

The siege ended on Wednesday with the surrender of 46 militants.

Extremists have so far killed 160 people in retaliation for the security operation at the shrine.

Last troops

MOSCOW, (Reuters): The last column of Soviet soldiers has left Jalalabad, the Afghan city which controls the eastern corridor into Kabul from Pakistan, according to the official Soviet news agency Tass. (See also page 2)

Pakistan will match Indian defence buildup

ISLAMABAD, May 22, (Reuters): Pakistan's armed forces must meet an increasing military threat from India, President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan said today.

"We must match a sword with a sword, a tank with a tank, a destroyer with a destroyer. Not necessarily in quantitative but in qualitative terms," he said to applause from his audience at a speech to introduce a new book on the armed forces.

Too much

Pakistan, which has fought three wars with its large neighbour to the east, has watched with alarm as India has bought more and more modern weaponry from its Soviet allies.

"India, without any threat to its integrity, is spending incredible amounts of money on defence," Zia said.

Zia, who came to power in a military coup in 1977 and ended martial law in 1985, said that he was aware it was impossible to raise military spending year after year indefinitely.

"The armed forces are no longer a sacred cow. Nobody in uniform, or out of uniform, is an

angel," he said. "But how do you counter a nuclear submarine, an aircraft carrier, the latest fighter aircraft and modern tanks? Not with bamboo sticks," he said.

Two days ago in Islamabad, defence secretaries from both countries agreed they would settle differences through negotiations.

Indian weapon purchases which particularly worry Pakistan include a Soviet class nuclear powered submarine and the advanced Soviet MiG-29 fighter plane.

Discord

Pakistan believes such weapons are not required for internal security alone.

The two main areas of tension are in the contested area of Jammu and Kashmir in the far north, where troops from each sides face each other in the Himalayas and along the border between Indian and Pakistani Punjab, where each accuses the other of aiding and abetting guerrillas and agitators.

Pakistan's armed forces total around 500,000 against India's total of about 1.3 million.

Hezbollah pledges to protect hostages

ABU DHABI, May 22, (AP): The pro-Iranian Hezbollah in Lebanon has pledged to protect the safety of foreign hostages held in Beirut's southern suburbs, it was reported here today.

Quoting a senior political source in Beirut, the UAE newspaper Al Itihad said the pledge was part of an eight-point agreement concluded by Hezbollah, the Iranian embassy in Beirut and the Syrian government.

The source said that Damascus had conveyed to Ali Mohammed Besharati, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, the message that Syria "would consider any harm inflicted on the hostages as an action directed against it."

Hezbollah's spiritual guide, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, has pledged to help free foreign hostages in Beirut.

The newspaper, in a front-page story, claimed it had obtained the text of the agreement reached between Syria and Iran on Syrian military entrance into the embattled

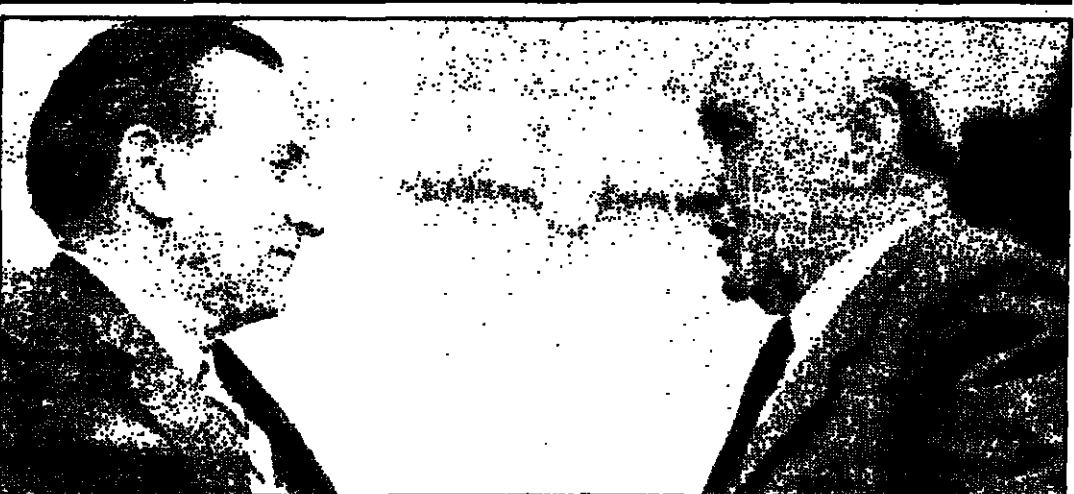
south Beirut suburbs, expected to take place soon.

The paper said the agreement called for an immediate ceasefire between Hezbollah and the Syrian-backed Shiite Amal movement and withdrawal of all military personnel from the suburbs before the entrance of the Syrian Army.

The withdrawal will be controlled by a joint committee of Syrians, Iranians, and members of Hezbollah and Amal.

The paper said 25 armoured cars of Hezbollah and 200 members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, fighting alongside Hezbollah in the 17-day struggle, would be given free passage to the Bekaa valley in east Lebanon.

The agreement calls for closure of armed positions of Amal and Hezbollah, but allows each group one principal headquarters to be guarded by their own men under Syrian supervision.



Kadar (right) and Grosz chat during party conference in Budapest. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reformers win in Hungary

Grosz replaces veteran Kadar

BUDAPEST, May 22, (AP): Janos Kadar, who had led Hungary's Communist Party since 1956, was replaced today by Premier Karoly Grosz.

Word that Kadar, who turns 76 next week, would get the newly created honorary post of party president came over national radio after hours of debate in which a prominent party official said there was a struggle over who would lead the nation's communists.

Reformers who backed Grosz appeared to have emerged as the decisive winners in months of infighting between advocates of

change and old-guard backers of Kadar.

The 57-year-old Grosz becomes party leader with a revamped politburo trimmed of ageing officials.

Imre Pozsgay, a leading advocate of reform, and Reszo Nyers, the father of Hungary's economic reform in the 1960s who was dropped from the politburo in 1972, were named to the new look ruling body today.

The announcement that Kadar was being replaced was greeted with long, enthusiastic applause by almost 1,000 delegates to a three-day party

conference that decided on the leadership changes.

Kadar was also dropped from the new politburo and Western diplomats said this indicated his political eclipse was complete. But the standing ovation he received when word of his appointment as president was announced signalled he still enjoys affection and respect among many party members.

"This is an exceptional day for Hungary," said a prominent Communist Party official who supports reform. "We are proud that we have shown that it is possible to do this gracefully."

3 Palestinians die

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 22, (AP): A car apparently hit by a firebomb burst into flames today, killing a Palestinian woman and her son, while a third Arab died of wounds suffered in a confrontation with Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank, hospital officials said.

Three Arab teenagers also were wounded in two separate clashes and an Israeli man was in intensive care after being burned in a firebomb attack, the officials and Israeli Radio said.

The Army confirmed the deaths and said it was investigating the causes.

The violence occurred as about 12,000 Palestinian children returned to schools in East Jerusalem for the first time in more than three months. Israel closed its schools during the height of the Arab uprising, which began Dec 9.

Shamseh Al Kadsh, 65, and her son Mohammed Salah

Ghanem, 36, of the village of Shuweika, died when their car caught fire in the West Bank town of Tulkaram as they drove from Tulkaram Hospital where Ghanem's wife was giving birth, hospital officials said.

Meanwhile, Kawther Miri, 23, of a refugee camp near Tulkaram, died of a bullet wound to the chest suffered during clashes with soldiers yesterday, said an official at Rafidiyeh hospital in Nabulus where she was being treated.

Also today, hundreds of protesters in Nabulus hurled rocks at soldiers on an avenue named for slain PLO leader Khalil Al Wazir, hospital officials said.

Israel reopened 31 kindergartens, elementary and high schools in East Jerusalem and the radio said about 80 per cent of a student body of 16,000 showed up for classes. Pupils will have to attend an extra hour of classes daily and give up part of their summer vacations to make up for the lost time.

Mideast peace conference should not be a cocktail party: Soviets

AMMAN, May 22, (Agencies): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will urge President Reagan to accept a Middle East peace conference that would be more than "a cocktail party," the Soviet ambassador to Jordan said today.

"The United States is now willing to accept an international conference as an opening session, or as a cocktail party, and it ends at that," Alexander Zinchuk told a news conference. "But the Soviet Union is looking for an effective conference."

Zinchuk said that in discussion of regional conflicts at next week's Gorbachev-Reagan summit in Moscow, the Soviet leader would "work towards convincing the United States of the importance and necessity of holding such a conference."

"It is natural that the Middle East problems will be at the top of the summit agenda since it is

considered an old and essential issue," Zinchuk said.

The ambassador reiterated his country's position saying, "there will be no solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute unless it is within the frame of an international peace conference."

He said Moscow's idea of an effective conference was not one which would impose solutions, but one which would "allow all the concerned parties to express their views in a positive spirit."

Similar

Zinchuk said Jordan and the Soviet Union held similar views on how Palestinians should be represented at such a conference.

They agreed the Palestinians should take part on an equal footing with other parties, whether as a separate delegation or jointly with Jordan or as part of a single Arab delegation. Zinchuk said Washington had

been persuaded to accept some form of international conference by Arab countries, especially Jordan, and the Soviet Union.

US Secretary of State George Shultz, due to start his fourth Middle East peace mission this year on June 3, has proposed an international conference to introduce direct Arab-Israeli talks on limited Palestinian autonomy.

Zinchuk said the international conference should also guarantee the legitimate rights of Palestinians, including the right to self-determination.

"Israel has become a reality in the Middle East," he said. "And ignoring that fact is a grave mistake."

Zinchuk explained that since Israel would be part of the conference, then "it should be convinced to take a constructive position to end the Mideast crisis."

INTERNATIONAL

UN soldiers shot in Cyprus

NICOSIA, May 22. (Reuters): North Cypriot police arrested two men today following the shooting of two Austrian soldiers of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (Unficyp), the semi-official Turkish Cypriot news agency Tak said.

They were relatives of Moustafa Hussein Kaffa, a Turkish Cypriot killed on Saturday in the UN-controlled buffer zone village of Pyla in a shoot-out with an Austrian lieutenant.

Tak named the two arrested men as Kaffa's son, Cemal Kaffa Buzaci, and his son-in-law, Ali Buzaci.

UN spokesman Charles Gaulkin said Kaffa had repeatedly caused problems for Unficyp personnel in Pyla, 40 km southeast of Nicosia.

It is the only inhabited village in the 180 km buffer zone separating the Greek Cypriot controlled south from the self-declared Turkish Republic of North Cyprus. Greek and Turkish Cypriots live side-by-side.

North Cypriot officials said it was unlikely that reporters would be allowed into Pyla where local newspapers reported tension overnight.

Pyla's Turkish Cypriot Mayor, Ahmet Sakalli, declined to answer questions on the telephone but said: "It is calm now."

The UN casualties were the first for 14 years.

Police block march against Islamic bill

DHAKA, May 22. (Reuters): Riot police blocked a march on parliament today by about 2,000 members of Bangladeshi minority groups protesting at government plans to make Islam the state religion.

The minorities, including Hindus, Christians and Buddhists, said the change would destroy secularism and could jeopardise communal harmony.

"Islamisation is conspiracy to steal our nationality," they shouted, before riot police stopped the march about a mile from parliament. No incidents were reported.

Police later allowed a minority leader, retired judge Debesh Bhattacharya, to hand a protest memorandum to the speaker of parliament, Shamsul Huda Choudhury.

The memorandum said: "The Islamic bill will deny us our equal rights, will impede national development and will one day brand the minorities as infidels."

Prime Minister Maudood Ahmed tabled a bill in parliament this month seeking to make Islam the state religion of what is the third-largest Muslim country.

Relatives file complaints

Hundreds of people missing in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, May 22. (AP): An independent newspaper claimed today that as many as 647 cases of missing people have been reported to police in Sri Lanka during March and April.

The Sunday Lakandeeppa, a Sinhalese-language newspaper, said it based its report on the number of complaints of missing people filed by relatives at police headquarters in Colombo, the island's capital.

The report did not say who was responsible or identify which ethnic group was affected by the disappearances — Sinhalese, Tamil or Muslim.

"In March this year, 345 people have disappeared and in April, 302 more, according to records maintained at police headquarters," the newspaper said. It also said the two-month total of 647 was the highest on police records.

The newspaper said reports filed by concerned relatives show the missing people were linked to the island's turbulent politics, but a spokesman for police headquarters refused comment.

In the past, National Security Minister Lalith Athulthumudali, has said that if individuals or organisations, local and foreign,

took up the issue of missing people in Sri Lankan courts, his government would be prepared to investigate.

Meanwhile, President Junius Jayewardene said his ruling party would not collapse even if he were to become the next assassination victim of a Marxist group.

"They (the JVP, Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna) might kill me, but the ruling United National Party will not collapse. There are others here to succeed me," he told a crowded party rally outside Colombo on Saturday.

The government has blamed the JVP for the killing of party secretary Nandimal Fernando, who was ambushed and shot on Friday by two gunmen while driving to his office in Colombo.

Jayewardene said the UNP would be wiped out only if every single party member were killed.

"Why is the JVP doing such mad things? They must remember that they cannot kill every UNP member and bury the party," he added.

The President said he was willing to talk to the JVP leader to discuss ways of ending bloody political violence.

"Now that the ban on the JVP

has been lifted, I am prepared to meet its leader Rohana Wijeweera and discuss their problems and end senseless killings," Jayewardene said.

He asked the front to give up violence and invited Wijeweera to a round-table discussion to study their problems.

The group is opposed to an Indian-Sri Lankan pact designed to end a separatist war by minority Tamils and since the pact was signed last July, the JVP has been blamed for killing over 275 people including politicians supporting the accord.

The 1983 ban on the front, which is made up of youths from the majority Sinhalese community, was lifted on May 10 after the government said a peace pact had been signed with the JVP.

The deal turned out to have been a hoax, the JVP denying any knowledge of it. But the ban was not reimposed.

Jayewardene said he would not imprison Wijeweera if the JVP accepted his offer. "The JVP will achieve nothing by killing innocent people," he said.

The group has stepped up its campaign since elections to semi-autonomous councils were held in some provinces last month.

Naked woman steals ambulance

LOS ANGELES, May 22. (UPI): A woman found naked in the street early Saturday in the aftermath of a traffic collision drove off in an ambulance dispatched to the accident and was captured after crashing into a bread truck, police said.

Valerie Morales, 27, of Los Angeles, was booked on suspicion of grand theft auto and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs after the ambulance, heading north in the southbound lanes of the Glendale Freeway, slammed into a bread truck, Lt. Dave Waterman said.

When an ambulance arrived to care for the injured, paramedics found the naked woman lying in the street, but it was unclear whether she was injured, city fire spokesman Greg Acevedo said.

The paramedics placed her in the ambulance and went to tend others injured in the accident. The naked woman, left alone in the emergency vehicle, drove off, he said.

She managed to travel less than a mile before hitting the bread truck.



● American actor-director Clint Eastwood (second from right) is surrounded by members of the cast of his film 'Bird' which is an official entry at the 41st Cannes film festival. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorbachev optimistic about missile reduction treaty

WASHINGTON, May 22. (AP): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev told US journalists this week he is optimistic about prospects for a US-Soviet agreement on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic nuclear weapons before US President Ronald Reagan leaves office.

Gorbachev, in an interview in Moscow with The Washington Post and Newsweek magazine, also said he will ask Reagan to approve a joint Soviet-US unmanned flight to Mars when the two men meet in Moscow for the May 29-June 2 summit.

Details of the interview and Gorbachev's answers to written questions submitted in March were released by Newsweek and published in today's editions of the Post. Editors from the two news organisations interviewed Gorbachev for 90 minutes on Wednesday.

Asked about his answer to a

written question on the 50 per cent reduction in strategic offensive weapons, Gorbachev said, "we want to have that signed."

He said if the agreement "comes to be drafted under the present US administration, I see no reason why President Reagan and I should not sign it. I would certainly welcome that."

Realism Asked to evaluate Reagan, Gorbachev responded: "I'm not particularly fond of giving personal character references. But since you ask, I would like to say that realism is an important quality in President Reagan as a politician."

"By this I mean the ability to adapt one's views to the changing situation, while remaining faithful to one's convictions."

In maintaining a positive tone in advance of the upcoming summit, Gorbachev referred to the already-signed US-Soviet treaty

to reduce medium-range missiles and said: "Who would have thought in the early '80s... that it would be President Reagan who would sign with us the first nuclear arms reduction treaty in history?"

Gorbachev cautioned that he has no plans to set aside unresolved disputes in order to hasten a treaty on strategic weapons.

"In our assessment we have covered together a long road in the search for conclusions to all questions," Gorbachev said.

"But I think you would agree with me that if I say that if we sign with one hand a treaty reducing strategic offensive forces in one area and at the same time launch an arms race in space or at sea, what would be the point? That would be senseless."

He said the Soviet position was not capricious but fully thought out and responsible.

Junejo refutes Soviet, Afghan charges

Pakistan respects Geneva accords

ISLAMABAD, May 22. (Reuters): Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo today denied Soviet and Afghan charges that Pakistan had violated the UN-mediated accords on Afghanistan.

He made the statement to reporters before leaving for Beijing. He will also visit South Korea and the Philippines.

On Friday, Soviet officials backed the Afghan government's charges that Pakistan was supplying Afghan rebels with arms in violation of the agreements signed in Geneva last month.

"We respect the Geneva accords... and will take the steps necessary to implement them," Junejo said when asked about the charges.

He said he would use his overnight stay in Beijing to discuss the

Afghan situation following the Geneva accords, under which the Soviet Union began withdrawing its estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan last week. Islamabad and Kabul are committed by the accords not to interfere in each other's internal affairs.

Meeting Junejo is due to meet Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng and Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, Pakistani officials said. Pakistani President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq is due to begin an eight-day visit to China on May 30.

Junejo will stay in Hong Kong on Monday and visit South Korea from May 24 to 27 and Philippines from May 27 to 29. Kabul lodged a second complaint about the violation of the

Geneva accords to United Nations observers on Thursday.

"The shipping of arms and ammunition from Pakistan into the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan is an obvious violation of the Geneva accords," a Soviet Foreign Ministry statement on Friday said.

Pakistan plays host to an estimated three million Afghan refugees and the main guerrilla groups fighting the Kabul government.

The main Pakistan-based guerrilla alliance said on Saturday its field commanders from the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar had chalked out a programme of attack on the provincial capital of Jalalabad.

The Soviet pullout was led by 1,200 troops who left Jalalabad on April 14.

Mubarak flies to N. Yemen

CAIRO, May 22. (UPI): President Hosni Mubarak departed today for a two-day visit to North Yemen, the first by an Egyptian leader in 24 years, officials said.

The two countries have been bound by a special relationship since Egyptian troops intervened in Yemen in the early 1960's to prop up a newly-established republican regime.

North Yemen was among 11 Arab states that restored diplomatic relations with Egypt following last November's Arab League summit in Amman.

From the North Yemeni capital of Sanaa, Mubarak will travel on Tuesday to Addis Ababa to attend a summit of the Organisation of African Unity.

The device was exploded 1,200 feet below ground at 3:30 pm (2230GMT) and had a yield of less than 150 kilotons, he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Algeria, Morocco appoint envoys

RABAT, May 22. (Reuters): Algeria and Morocco today named the first ambassadors to be exchanged after a 12-year diplomatic rift.

Officials said Dr Abdelatif Berbach, a cardiologist and secretary of the Moroccan Royal Academy, will be Moroccan ambassador in Algiers. Berbach, who is not a career diplomat, is a close personal friend of King Hassan of Morocco.

The Algerian envoy will be Abdelhamid Mehri, a career diplomat who has represented Algeria in France.

18 feared drowned

DHAKA, May 22. (Reuters): Eighteen fishermen were feared drowned after their boat capsized in rainstorms sweeping Bangladesh, officials said today.

They said the boat went down off the island of Hattir, near the Ganges delta, with 23 people on board. Five made it ashore but the rest were missing.

Prospects improve

MOSCOW, May 22. (Reuters): The Soviet Union and Egypt believe prospects have improved recently for holding an international conference on the Middle East with all interested parties, Pravda said today.

Pravda said a communique issued after talks between Soviet and Egyptian Foreign Ministers Eduard Shevardnadze and Esmat Abdel-Maguid reaffirmed support for such a conference to be attended by the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Guard kills 12

MANILA, May 22. (Reuters): A member of Philippine President Corazon Aquino's security unit ran amok while on a drinking bout with friends and shot dead 12 people, including three children, the military said today.

It said in a statement that Sergeant Marciano Contao, who disappeared after his killing spree, killed four companions last night then rushed to his own home nearby, took a rifle, and fired at people in the streets.

Re-election bid

ARLINGTON, Massachusetts, May 22. (AP): Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II yesterday formally announced his candidacy for reelection to the congressional seat once held by his late uncle, John F. Kennedy, and former House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill.

The 35-year-old freshman congressman, son of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, made his announcement to more than 200 cheering supporters at Arlington town hall.

Almirante dies

ROME, May 22. (AP): Giorgio Almirante, who had a minor role in Benito Mussolini's last government and was a founder and long-time leader of Italy's small but vocal Neo-fascist party, died this morning, hospital officials said. He was 73.

Almirante, who has suffered from heart disease for years, died because complications of ischemia, a condition caused by arterial blockage, the Italian news agency Ansa said.

US nuclear test

MERCURY, Nev., May 22. (Reuters): The United States conducted an underground nuclear test at its Nevada test site yesterday, a government spokesman said.

The device was exploded 1,200 feet below ground at 3:30 pm (2230GMT) and had a yield of less than 150 kilotons, he said.

Discover gold

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Amir's support for authority for applied education lauded

DR Abdul Rahman Al Muhallan, the director-general of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training has lauded and greatly appreciated the support rendered by HH the Amir.

He stated that the primary objective of the authority was to provide qualified and professionally trained citizens to shoulder the national responsibilities in overall development, and to meet the existing and growing need for skilled manpower. Consequently, the authority had formed special committees entrusted towards developing existing educational and training programmes on professional and modern lines. The committee is in the process of initiating new disciplines based on their findings of the skills required for the local market.

Al Muhallan added, that the authority had formed a special

committee to view the possibility of setting up an advanced centre for educational technologies equipped with the latest teaching aids to facilitate better transfer of knowledge through innovative technology. In this connection, the authority was planning to increase the number and capacity of its buildings to accommodate the number of students and equipment he said.

Council

Above all, he said, the authority intended to set up special sections to provide specialised oral health, and teaching centres for the deaf and dumb.

Plans were underway to set up a supervisory council to coordinate the workings of the different institutions responsible for the pre-qualification of teachers. The council would be under the chairmanship of the minister of

education and chairman of the board at the authority which would operate in coordination with the Kuwait University. He commented that the authority attaches special significance to the role played by Kuwaiti teachers in the fulfillment of their duties and recommended that their services be duly recognised and appreciated.

He concluded by saying that the financial budgetary allocations of the authority did not exceed KD34 million. These funds were inadequate, particularly as the authority would incorporate new sections next year so as to accommodate an increase of students by 30 per cent. He recommended an increase and better distribution of the budget among the four major headings, namely, buildings, installations, payroll and students' recognitions and rewards.

Seminar on higher education



Guests at the seminar on higher education and training listen to introductory remarks at the opening of the seminar.

KUWAIT'S Minister of Education and Acting Minister of Higher Education, Anwar Al Nouri, speaking at the opening of a seminar on higher education and training in the Arab Gulf area, said that a university plays an important role in determining and meeting the needs of a society. He added that Islam in-

structs one to pursue science and education. The Assistant Rector of Kuwait University for Social Services and Information, Dr Rasha Al Sabah, said that higher education and training were primary goals of modern universities. Twelve scientists and special-

ists from Gulf and Arab states are participating in the seminar which will continue until next Wednesday.

Dr Sabah, the newly-elected chairperson of the seminar, said it was planned to study and further develop higher education and training programmes in the area.



Kuwait's Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad cuts the ribbon inaugurating the new Defence Ministry building on Saturday. The construction of the building was supervised by the Department of Military Installations Engineering.

Othman leads high level judicial delegation to Egypt

JUSTICE and Legal Affairs Minister Dhari Al Othman left here yesterday for Egypt.

The minister is leading a delegation comprising Attorney General Ghazi Obeid Al Sammar, head of the first instance court Mohammed Al Banay and Assistant Undersecretary of the ministry Abdulaziz Al Dakhlil.

The visit comes in reply to an official invitation from the Egyptian Justice Minister Farouq Saif El Nasr and would centre on the cooperation between two Arab countries in justice fields.

Kuwait restored diplomatic relations with Egypt following the Amman Arab summit in November of last year.

Othman, speaking to a Kuwaiti newspaper published yesterday on the eve of his departure for an official visit to Egypt, said that his Egyptian counterpart Farouq Saif Al Nasr had

extended the invitation.

The minister underlined that he is carrying greetings of HH the Amir to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and a reply message from HH Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah to Egyptian Premier Atef Sedki.

Agreement

Othman said he would discuss means of benefiting from the Egyptian National Centre for Judicial Researches through sending a number of Kuwaiti cadres to train there.

He noted that Kuwait and Egypt have signed an agreement for judicial cooperation and extradition of criminals. He added that he will work to boost such cooperation.

The minister said that execution of that agreement has revealed that there are certain

aspects that should be amended and these will be discussed during the visit.

Asked whether Kuwait can benefit from the Egyptian personal status law, Othman said that the Kuwaiti law has been recently passed after extensive research.

He added that the Arab justice ministers in their recent Kuwait meeting adopted a unified personal status law that was clearly based on the Kuwaiti law which in turn had derived its articles from Islamic teaching.

The minister highlighted that cooperation between the two countries in the judicial field assumes numerous phases, citing as an example the presence of many Egyptians working in the Justice Ministry's various departments in addition to the exchange of periodicals between the two countries' ministries.

Long vehicles will not be allowed to enter Kuwait

A LOCAL daily learnt from reliable sources that the Minister of Finance Jassim Al Khorafi will head a committee designated to formulate rules and regulations to prevent long vehicles (LCVs) carrying imported vegetables and fruits from entering Kuwait. The sources added that the committee was presently looking into the means to transport these produce from border centres to the local markets through local vehicles.

The committee comprises representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Higher Security Committee, Customs Authority, General Warehouse Company, and the Public Transportation Company.

The source went on to state that "all precautions and restrictions to prevent the vehicles from engaging in smuggling activities have proved negative and did not fulfil security demands."

So far, the committee has held three meetings and one of the proposals to emerge, recommended establishing air-conditioned storage facilities in Salmi and Abdali border centres to store

the imports for brief periods, prior to their being transported by a fleet of local vehicles from the border areas to the local market. The source added, that further refining the modalities are in progress.

Oil store fire

TWO Iraqis were injured when an electrical fire broke out in an oil store in Salmi recently.

Ala'a K. and Abdul Karim N. were rushed to the hospital for treatment and authorities are investigating the incident.

Some material damage was reported.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audience

HH the Amir received yesterday Sheikh Jaber Al Ali

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday received the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al Osaime, the Finance Minister, Jasssem Mohammed Al Khorafi, the Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Abdel Razaq Al Khalid, the Public Works Minister, Abdel-Rahman Al Houti, the Minister of State for Municipality Affairs Mohammed Al Rifai, and the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed.

Sheikh Saad later received the Governor of the Central Bank Sheikh Salem Abdel Aziz Saud, the chairman of Kuwait Medical Association Dr Abdullah Al Rashid and the chairman of Kuwait Teachers Society Omar Al Ghnir.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Resumption of ties between Morocco-Algeria praised

A KUWAITI newspaper yesterday praised the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council efforts that restored diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco following a disruption of more than 10 years.

Al Rai Al Aam expressed hope in an editorial commentary that the resumption of links would lead to a settlement of the Western Sahara dispute between Morocco and the Algerian-backed Polisario Front.

"This Saudi-Gulf initiative embodied the pioneering role of the Gulf Cooperation Council in unifying Arab ranks and meeting foreign challenges," the paper said.

The newspaper voiced hope that the Gulf states would take a similar initiative towards Egypt ahead of the June 7 extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers.

"Egypt's return to the Arab League and Arab summits would bolster Arab position towards current challenges in view of its vast human potential and diplomatic links worldwide," the paper concluded.

GULF PRESS

English dailies in UAE criticised

AN Arabic newspaper has waged a war of words against local English dailies, accusing them of ignoring coverage of local and Arab events.

The newspaper Al Khaleej criticised what it called "this serious negligence" in the coverage of local and Arab events by two of three English newspapers published in the United Arab Emirates.

Al Khaleej is one of eight Arabic dailies in the UAE published in Sharjah, one of the seven emirates of the UAE.

On Thursday, Al Khaleej made a comparison between the frontpage news of the local Arabic newspapers and one of the English dailies without naming it.

Removing rusty colour from drinking water

KUWAIT'S Minister of Electricity and Water, Homoud Al Rqobah, has said that initial projects to remove the rusty colour from drinking water have been successful.

The ministry is working on a project which will eventually include all residential areas and will provide clear water to residents, he said.

Al Rqobah added that some water pipes and storage tanks might need to be replaced in some homes before the discoloration is removed permanently.

Regarding the ministry's policy to cut power to homes with delinquent bills, Al Rqobah said that HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister had requested that the ministry suspend such cuts so as not to inconvenience families during Ramadan.

International Nurse Day celebrated

THE Ministry of Public Health and the Kuwait Nursing Society yesterday celebrated the "International Nurse Day" and the fourth Nursing Week which this year is held under the slogan "For Safe Maternity".

Addressing the occasion, which is held under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, the Minister of Health, Dr Abdul Razzak Youssef Al Abdul Razzak, commended the initiative of the Nursing Society in promoting nursing in the country.

The minister noted that this year's slogan has a special significance since it deals with health of the individual from birth adding that interest in the promotion of nursing serves the ultimate goals of the World



Al Ragem addressing the meeting.

Health Organisation in achieving health for all by the year 2000.

Yesterday's ceremony was also addressed by president of the Kuwait Nursing Society Mariam Abdul Razzak Al Ragem who said HH the Crown Prince and Premier was behind the success of the society in performing its duties as he was the inspirator of founding the society in 1982.

She said the society will organise a panel on nursing in Kuwait and expected to attract young Kuwaiti girls to this noble profession.

Youths urged to take advantage of summer activities

THE public relations department at Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, in a recent report on youth centres, has urged youths to take advantage of the summer activities offered at the centres located throughout Kuwait.

The centres provide activities for members from the age of six to 18 and are located in Qadisiya, Faiha, Daiya, Shamiya, Jahra, Faiha, Um Haiman and Sabahiya.

Ramada exceeds expectations as 22,000 guests are received over the Eid Holidays

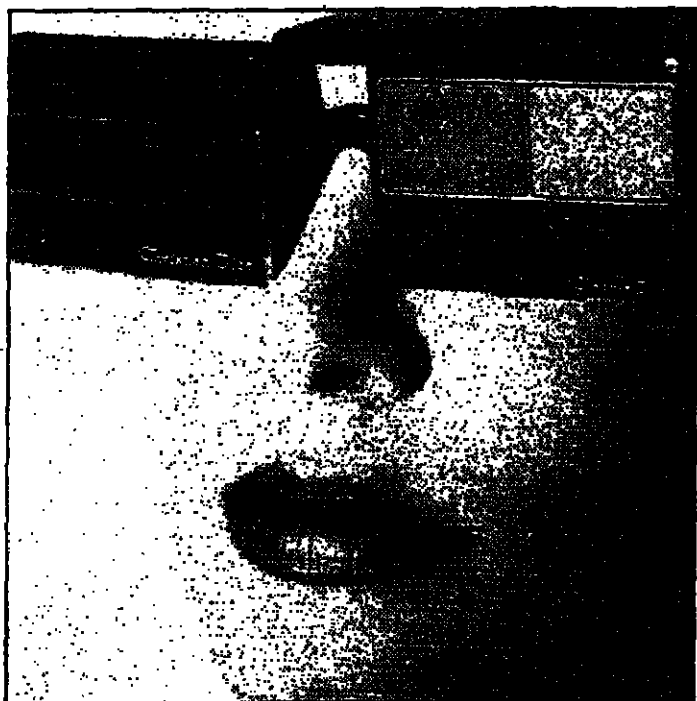


Over 22,000 guests were received at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel during the Eid Holidays, as they packed in for the superb line-up of events.

Due to Ramada's bright thinking, prior arrangements had been made to cope with this overwhelming crowd, as all restaurants and outlets were opened.

The hotel held 3 shows daily for the children, with the world famous Samir Ghanim (Fatuta) and 3 parties daily in the hotel's Banquet Room and Nightclub with performances by well known Arabic Singers.

Over 2,000 people enjoyed the grilled specialties, making the Al Gandouf Grill Garden come alive with people. Mr. Khaled Fouad, General Manager of Ramada Al Salam Hotel commented: "The Eid success has been a great challenge to both management and staff, to be able to have satisfied over 22,000 different tastes. This is considered to be a record and everyone is very proud of this achievement."



Christian Dior presents "2 Eyeshadows" (picture) in a spectrum of shades in a mini compact of blue and gold in which the colours are outlined. The makeup is a new formula which offers a velvet, yet translucent finish, with an ultra-fine texture that delicately colours your lids. Unusual colour combinations, delicate pastels and gentle monochromatics allow you to mix, match and blend as you will.

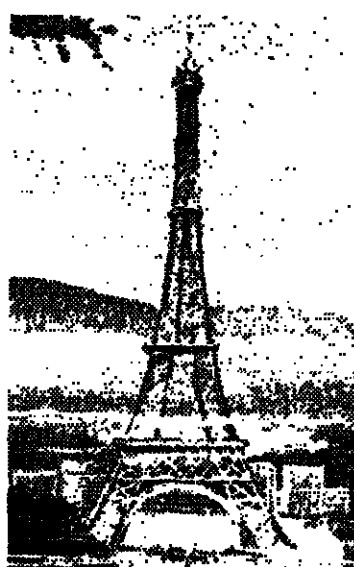
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From Paris to Kuwait				
Monday	AF 150	dep. 11:00	arr. 17:55	Monday
Wednesday	AF 152	dep. 10:15	arr. 17:10	Wednesday
Friday	AF 158	dep. 18:55	arr. 01:50	Saturday



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Senior government jobs to be limited to four years

SOURCES have said that the Council of Ministers is considering a draft law which would limit the appointment of senior government officials to four years subject to renewal.

The new draft law has been introduced within the context of the administrative development programme and is an obvious attempt to bring new people into administration.

The draft law is also an attempt to solve the problem of extended terms for senior government officials, including undersecretaries and assistant undersecretaries, who, according to recent reports, lack adequate knowledge of advanced technical equipment, which has become essential for administrators.

Flexibility
The draft law, being prepared by the Fatwa and Legislative Department, will be presented to the Council of Ministers' legislative ministerial committee before final approval by the Council of Ministers.

The new law will give the Council of Ministers the right to transfer senior ministry officials

without Amiri decrees which are currently necessary. This would add more flexibility to changes in ministerial posts.

Meanwhile, the Civil Service Council is studying ways to train senior government officials; a move that has gained momentum following reports prepared by various administrative development committees.

One of these reports has shown that at least 85 per cent of all undersecretaries and most assistant undersecretaries do not hold university degrees.

The basis for the training programmes have been established which will include training for undersecretaries, assistant undersecretaries, heads of departments, supervisors and technical posts.

The programme which will cover new roles for the civil service and training to improve administrative skills, has been designed to meet the needs of various posts.

Meanwhile, in an interview with a local daily, the undersecretary at Kuwait's Civil Service Commission (CSC)

Abdulaziz Al Zaben was quoted as confirming that the state was paying special attention towards an upward revision of the employees salaries.

The study, which fell within the framework of the reform plan currently under implementation, aimed at increasing the allowances, increments and incentive rewards for technical employees.

Al Zaben clarified that the incentive allowance fixed at KD30 given to PhD degree holders was no longer given for academic qualifications only, but, for the nature of the post and work involved with such qualifications. He added, the Civil Service Commission had endorsed this allowance for categories such as doctors, engineers and teachers whose jobs required these academic specialisations to attract qualified specialists in different fields to cater to the country's development plans.

Al Zaben clarified that posts which did not require higher education certificates such as MA and PhD degrees did not fall within the purview of the incentive allowance category.



The Undersecretary at Kuwait's Education Ministry Abdul Rahman Al Khudari met the visiting Canadian education delegation on Saturday. The meeting's discussion centred on ways of developing educational programmes between the two countries.

Computer centre to increase staff

YOUSIF AL ENIZI, the head of the computer unit at the Education Ministry's educational research centre, in an interview with a local daily said "in order to achieve its objectives, it is imperative to increase the number of trained technical staff at the centre."

He added, the unit is currently extensively engaged in implementing the secondary stage student guide project due for completion before the end of next month. The unit began work last Sept. After completion, another guide will be prepared for students at the intermediate stage. Other projects envisaged, he said, included designs for electronic files, data entry, and designs for an integrated information system to cover library, information and other related sections at the centre.

Al Enizi stated the centre held a number of training courses to enhance staff capabilities in programming and other related secretarial duties. The unit prepared a statistical programme intended to assist researchers. Another computer programme was prepared by the unit aimed at educating secondary stage students on programming skills.

He added that computers were introduced at the educational research centres to provide researchers with the latest equipment and technologies in the development of their educational tasks. He concluded that Kuwait strives to continually upgrade and utilise the most modern technology in its educational process and to keep abreast with educational activities of advanced countries.

Houti inspects burst sewage pipeline

THE Minister of Public Works, Abdul Rahman Al Houti, inspected the sewage pumping pipeline at Istiklal Street which burst on Saturday.

He inspected the main sewage pumping stage at Daiya area along with the chief sanitary engineer of the ministry, Ali Al Abdullah.

The latter stated that the damaged pipeline would be repaired and operational within 24 hours. He added that the pipeline branches out of Daiya station to the 3rd pumping station and on to the Green Belt area through Istiklal Street. On the reasons leading to the incident, he commented that such occurrences are caused for a variety of reasons, primarily, due to these pipes being made from asbestos and being some of the most archaic pipes used in the sewage utilities. However, he said, there was no need for undue concern, as there are two other pipelines — one is working and the other is kept in reserve to be used in emergencies. He concluded that immediate action to remedy the situation and to keep the roads and infrastructure clear after the accident had been instituted.

Leakage
The minister said that the government and the public are responsible for the increase in the level of underground water in Kuwait. Government's responsibility was attributed to leakage of water and sewage networks, and the public for wastage of

water. Continuing, he said, two government committees are currently studying coordination between the Ministry of Public Works with other government departments, especially, the municipality and traffic department. The Central Traffic Light Control Project, the minister said is still under study between the traffic department and Kuwait Municipality. However, he ruled out, any service charges being levied by the ministry. He also ruled out Kuwait being self sufficient in agricultural products, but said this is possible in animal products.

Al Houti defended the government policy in constructing additional pedestrian bridges rather than underground tunnels and opined that bridges ideally suited Kuwait.

Concluding, he said, the Ministry of Public Works in cooperation with the National Housing Authority had prepared a draft law which has been submitted to the Council of Ministers for their consideration, recommendations and eventual publication. The new law was necessitated due to changing situations and the nature of projects in Kuwait. He confirmed that several contractors had their projects withdrawn, others were fined, and some others had been suspended.

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Government keen on executing projects

THE Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahman Al Houti in an interview with a local daily, today, denied the government's expenditure rationalisation policy had adversely affected the developmental or service projects in the country.

He said the Council of Ministers had stressed the need to execute all approved projects and added that the total amount spent last year and this year exceeded KD439 million. He clarified that the total budget allocated for such projects was not utilised, as sites were not always readily available.

Priority in government projects, he said, were accorded to the Amiri Diwan and Interior Ministry buildings and added that tenders for buildings of the Ministries of Public Works, Electricity and Water, and Education would soon be published. An amount of KD140 million had been allocated to expand the Kuwait University buildings and for establishing a new university campus in Shadadiya area.

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Concluding, he said, the Ministry of Public Works in cooperation with the National Housing Authority had prepared a draft law which has been submitted to the Council of Ministers for their consideration, recommendations and eventual publication. The new law was necessitated due to changing situations and the nature of projects in Kuwait. He confirmed that several contractors had their projects withdrawn, others were fined, and some others had been suspended.

Leakage
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Nashville group brings downhome music to Gulf

MANAMA, May 22, (AP): The turbaned teenagers in the back rows clapped with the beat. Their heads, bodies and sandaled feet moved energetically to the music that fell, if any, had ever heard before.

The downhome sounds of the Nashville Bluegrass Band were an unusual experience for the blind Arab students, special guests at a benefit concert for Bahrain's Al Noor Institute for the Blind.

The five-member group had come to introduce an eclectic form of Americana to a new Middle East audience, as part of a cultural exchange programme sponsored by the United States Information Service. Judging by the reception, at least one bridge over the gap was crossed.

Banjoist Alan O'Bryant thinks music works as an ambassadorial tool because it bypasses other obstacles to communication.

"Music can communicate with people in ways words cannot," he said in an interview. "Music can cut through the barriers of not really being able to understand the language or terminology."

"The lyrical content may not get across, but the rhythms and beats, and what's going on up on stage with the musicians, will be picked up and enjoyed by the people."

So it was with the blind students of Al Noor, and even more so the next afternoon, when the band appeared outdoors at a local amusement park.

Chosen
There, children danced on the grass and veiled women watched discreetly as the musicians played and sang from their repertoire of Bluegrass, blues and country.

As the evening wore on, Bahraini men in ankle-length robes, or dishdashas, broke into traditional Arab dancing that went on until dark, when "we

couldn't even see our instruments any more," said guitarist and lead singer Pat Enright, of Huntington, Indiana.

"They were spinning like whirling dervishes. Everybody was trying to outdo everybody else. One guy walked into the circle, did a complete backflip and walked out again. It was definitely the highlight of our visit."

Although many Arabs prefer traditional music, Western music is popular among the younger set. Tiffany and Michael Jackson can be heard blasting from car radios, and English-language radio stations keep listeners up to date with the latest chart hits.

The audience is more limited, however, for such specialised music as Bluegrass, whose deep roots are said to lie in music taken to America by Scottish and Irish immigrants.

"It's a folk music, a people's music, a rudimentary style of popular music that draws from black and white and early jazz, and string band styles," said O'Bryant, of Reidsville, North Carolina.

A US embassy official, asking not to be named, said Bluegrass was chosen for this year's USIS-sponsored "Arts America" programme so people could experience music that "shows the depth and breadth of America."

A handful of other country-bluegrass bands have visited the region in the past decade but appeared mostly at hotels catering to foreigners.

Suitable
Performers for the "Arts America" programme are drawn from a list compiled by USIS headquarters in Washington, DC in cooperation with the National Foundation for the Arts. Last year's programme in the Middle East featured break dancing.

US embassies work with government officials to make sure performers and material are suitable for local audiences.

The Bahrainis clearly preferred fast numbers with a strong beat to bluesy ballads and a capella renditions.

From Bahrain, the all-male Nashville Bluegrass band was to travel to Qatar, then to Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iraq and Egypt.

Enright said he wasn't worried about going to Baghdad, the Iraqi capital recently battered by long-range Iranian missiles in the so-called "war of the cities."

"I don't imagine it will be any worse than driving through the South Bronx, or something like that," he quipped, referring to a New York City neighbourhood.

In one Bahrain appearance, banjo and guitar were to merge with the oud, a traditional Middle Eastern stringed instrument, as the band joined with a group of local musicians.

The Nashville band, which also includes mandolin player Mike Compton, fiddler Stuart Duncan and bassist Mark Hembree, has performed in Western Europe, Japan and China, but said they didn't know what to expect on their first Middle East visit.

"Anything we can play for a benefit, it's very gratifying to know you can do something for your fellow man," said O'Bryant. "To be able to take what we do to audiences that have never heard it before, it's an honour."

It may take a few more tours, however, before "My Native Home" finds a home on Arab radio station playlists. "Yes, I've heard this music before," a youth at the amusement park told a reporter. "It's from Hawaii, no?"

Medical team ready for pilgrimage

IBRAHIM AL MUDAF, the Assistant Undersecretary for Kuwait's Public Health Ministry and head of the medical pilgrimage team, said the team is ready with personnel and necessary drugs and equipment for the upcoming pilgrimage.

Al Mudaf said the ministry has provided the team with supplies and technicians to serve not only Kuwaitis but other pilgrims as well during their pilgrimage to the holy shrines.

Headed that medical services will be available for dental problems and sunstroke, and that X-ray equipment would be available along with other equipment needed in a field hospital.

US envoy in Saudi talks
BAHRAIN, May 22, (Reuters): US envoy Wat Cluvertin met Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal in Jeddah today for talks on the region, the official Saudi press agency SPA said.

SPA gave no further details of the visit by the US State Department official.



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Youth dies of burns

A 17-YEAR-OLD youth succumbed to injuries sustained when he burned while cleaning the fans of his home with kerosene.

A source at Kuwait's Interior Ministry said that they had received several phone calls from a number of residents blaming the father for burning his son, Iyad, because he had failed his secondary school examinations.

Iyad, who was hospitalised five days before his death, denied that his father had anything to do with the fire.

Iyad's brother Ahmed said

Iyad had been cleaning the fans at his house with kerosene, and when he went into the kitchen to wash up his clothes somehow ignited.

Ahmad attempted to extinguish the fire and finally the father smothered the fire with his own body.

Iyad was taken to Farwaniya Hospital following the accident Sunday morning.

Iyad's father has been hospitalised for shock following the death of his son.

Pharmacological training course

THE acting undersecretary of Kuwait's Health Ministry Ibrahim Al Mudaf opened the fifth session of the pharmacological training programme this week which will focus on delivery of medical services.

Al Mudaf, speaking at the opening, said the training course was intended to develop the scientific standards of the pharmacist and pharmacological services.

Al Mudaf added that the scope of the pharmacist had changed to include direct treatment of hospitalised patients as well as filling prescriptions.

Dr Abdullah Al Kharas, supervising the session, said the pharmacology training committee planned for such training courses to keep pharmacists and their assistants abreast of professional developments.

Al Kharas added that the scope of the pharmacist had changed to include direct treatment of hospitalised patients as well as filling prescriptions.



An Indian national was arrested yesterday on charges of manufacturing and consumption of alcohol. The accused was arrested in an intoxicated state and acknowledged that he had consumed liquor which he made at home. Detectives who raided his residence, found three bottles of whiskey, 23 bottles of wine, numerous empty bottles and manufacturing instruments. The accused along with the contraband has been referred to competent authorities for investigations.

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

By Fathima Ahmed

MAHESH Bhatt's fall began with Kaash. With Kabzaa, he slides further, falling right into the commercial pit. Kabzaa has flashes of Bhatt's brilliance. But they are just a flash in the pan.

Bhatt plays with Salim Khan's story and screenplay, expounding Gandhian principles, almost convincing you non-violence works. It works for some time, when Ali Mohammad (Alok Nath) reforms. Ravi (Sunjay Dutt) the rebel without a cause, giving him a reason to exist. At the same time, he tries to say that in the 1980s, the principle, if applied, won't work. Yet, Khan implies that the Gandhian principles are worth reconsidering. "Because you respect Gandhi, it means there is still hope," says Ali Mohammad to Ravi. In another sequence he points out: "We have freed ourselves from the British but we are now enslaved by hoodlums."

Khan, along with Bhatt, seems to make an urgent appeal to "become non-violent, gentle, simple folk." Like Ali Mohammad. Yet, they are there is no place for such people in today's world. Men like Ali are freaks of nature — and are expendable. Why else would they revert to violence in the movie? Kabzaa stresses, again and again, fight back — violently or non-violently. Khan and Bhatt prefer to start indiscriminate shooting, spill blood and guts, generally creating mayhem.

So, where did the non-violent principles go? Perhaps, they are lost among the songs and dances and Bhatt's more urgent need to succeed in commercialism.

Yet, Bhatt's masterly touch is there — during the confrontation between Ravi and Ranjit (Raj Babbar): Ravi's determined stance to fight the mafia boss, Veljibhai (Paresh Rawal) and Ali Mohammad's firm beliefs, reinforcing the value of character integrity.

Alok Nath shines as the ageing freedom fighter, locked in combat with hoodlums. Ali Mohammad, though the best makeup artist could not hide his youth.

Sunjay Dutt as Ravi seems convincing: Raj Babbar looks debonair as the lawyer working for the "other side." Salim Khan has not done his homework about medicine and has done a shoddy job of the scenes requiring "life saving surgery and removing bullet wounds."

Zalzala is no earth-shattering experience. It could be a

A flash in the pan



Raj Babbar: debonair



Mithun: striving for the Indian Michael Jackson title



Sunjay Dutt: rebel with a cause



Dharmendra: macho man in Zalzala

nerve-wracking one, though. The earth quivers — but all for the wrong reasons. There is not a moment's peace in the three-hour film. Literally. Either bullets fly, or men flail their arms and legs, hitting each

other, bouncing off the ground or grinding their teeth. Killing is a sport in Zalzala, courtesy Pappu Varma credited with "Action." No one can deny the presence of action. There is too much of it. When action ends,

dancing begins. When they are not acting or dancing they are riding.

The star of the show is "Bhaiya Toofan" (an alcoholic horse), a thoroughbred filly which has more grace than

Anita Raj, Vijeta Pandit and Kimi Katkar put together. Kimi's costumes are getting skimpier and skimpier; her so-called acting is becoming nuttier and nuttier. Vijeta's entry is rather dramatic — she ties the noose around her neck. "My parents have arranged my marriage against my wish," she moans.

Vijeta Pandit ties a noose too many, becoming adept at the art of tying the knot. Luckily for Vijeta, Rajeev is always nearby to unloosen it to rescue the damsel in distress.

Anita's job is to squeal each time she is "kidnapped" by Sonu Singh. Significantly, there is a Heera Singh (Gulshan Grover) and a Moti Singh. They form the notorious trio, on the lookout for the gold, apparently hidden in a "temple of gold."

At the start of the film, a voice tells you that the "story of Zalzala is centuries old." No doubt about that. Raju Saigal, who gets the credit for the story, should be informed. Incidentally, it is a copy of a Western.

Mithun Chakraborty recently said he was happy that he has been accepted in a family film. He was referring to Pyar Ka Mandir (PKM). A family saga it is, complete with sentimental drama, emotional blackmail, escape goats and a stereotyped, suffering mother.

PKM should stand for "Pahle Ka Maqsad" — to pull at your heart strings and earn sympathy. That Pyar Ka Mandir does well, prompting the soft-hearted to shed tears, soaking sheets. Mithun as the black sheep of the family, who stands up against all odds, earns much audience sympathy. Though, songs with lyrics like "phisli re phisli" are unappealing. Mithun is also not in the mood to gyrate, even though he wants to be the "Indian Michael Jackson."

Shamim Zaidi, a Pakistan resident of Kuwait, has produced a cassette called Muqabala (Contest) in an attempt to find out Who is the Greatest of them All — Amitabh Bachchan or Dilip Kumar. Frankly, there is no competition. Amit is Amit. Dilip is Dilip. Zaidi has featured excerpts from 27 films, dividing the cassette into romance, comedy, action and drama. Muqabala was recently released by Najeed Video. It would be interesting to see how Zaidi has handled the subject. The cassette will be reviewed next week.

The above films, except Muqabala, are by courtesy of Adhavi Video, Main St. Farwaniya. Tel: 471-2900.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.25 World News via Satellite
- 3.25 Cartoons: Tao Tao
- 4.00 Magazine D'Actualite
- 4.45 Beer Al Tayi: Arabic serial starring Hussein Abu Sarah, Lina Al Tall, Rabeeh Shihub.
- 5.30 Mama Anisa and Children
- 6.00 Cultural Show
- 7.05 Songs
- 7.35 Quran and Science: Alam Al Bahar. Part 6. Prepared and presented by Dr. Ahmad Shawki.
- 8.30 Souk Al Ghaz: "Al Dinar Al Mafeef". Starring: Mohammad Saeed Shrin, Zuhair Numani.
- 9.00 News
- 9.50 Hada Al Rajul (That is the Man): Arabic serial, starring: Noora, Salah Saadani, Khalid Zaki.
- 11.30 Al Liqa Al Thani: Arabic feature film, starring Ahmad Mazhar, Suad Husni, Hassan Yusuf, Zahrat Al Ula.
- 12.35 Holy Quran/ Close down



Angela Lansbury (left) plays Jessica Fletcher in Murder, She Wrote, on KTV 2 tonight.

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Wildfire: cartoon serial
- 6.30 Scuba World: "Sea of Cordex". A diving trip on the Mexican coast.
- 7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world and local events.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 Murder, She Wrote: "When Thieves Fall Out". An ex-convict finds it hard to re-

adjust after his release from prison.

- 9.30 Variety Show
- 9.45 Football: Live telecast from France of friendly football match between France and World Team.
- 11.58 Han-Lon
- 12.46 News Summary followed by world news and Holy Quran

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

- Morning
- 0800 Opening
- 0802 Songs and Music
- 0805 Science Journal
- 0830 News
- 0840 Songs and Music
- 0845 Daily Programme
- 0900 Songs and Music
- 0915 Writers and Their Works
- 0930 Radio Magazine Supplement
- 1000 Our Press Today
- 1005 Songs and Music
- 1100 Closedown
- 1:30 News on FM Service
- Evening
- 2100 Opening
- 2102 Bits and Bytes
- 2130 News
- 2145 Point of View
- 2155 Songs and Music
- 2200 Facts About Zionism
- 2215 Magazine Special
- 2245 Daily Programme
- 2300 Peel Mel
- 2400 Closedown

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsworld
- 30 Religious Service
- 0100 News Summary followed by 2nd The Wild Side of Town; 9th A Confederacy of Dunces — Part 2; 23rd Let Saints on Earth in Concert

- Sing: 30th After Henry.
- 30 (30th only) I Heard You Say So
- 45 Rhythms of the Sun (ex 30th A Schubert Anthology)
- 0200 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Football: Choice
- 30 Science in Action
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0400 Newsweek
- 30 Behind the Wall
- 45 Reflections
- 50 Waveguide
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Nature Notebook
- 45 Recording of the Week
- 0600 Newsweek
- 30 Israel (ex 2nd and 9th)
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Can Communism Cope? (ex 23rd and 30th From Coca to Cocaine)
- 0800 World News
- 09 Reflections
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Good Books
- 30 Financial News (ex 2nd and 30th Book Choice) followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Football: Choice
- 1000 News Summary
- 30 The Vintage Chart Show
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Tech Talk

- 30 The Ken Bruce Show (ex 2nd Album time)
- 1200 Radio Newsworld
- 15 Brain of Britain 1988
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Anything Goes
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-minute News
- 45 Science Fiction Stories (ex 2nd Cannery Row)
- 1500 Radio Newsworld
- 45 Weber (ex 2nd and 9th The Seven Ages of Man)
- 1600 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Squaring the Triangle
- 30 Big Bands — The Singers
- 45 The World Today
- 1700 World News
- 09 Book Choice
- 15 The Jesuits (ex 30th Music of the Royal Courts)
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 Newsweek
- 30 Multitrack 1: Top 20
- 1900 Outlook, opening with News Summary
- 39 Stock Market Report (ex 2nd and 30th Outlook Contd.)

Urdu

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Behicren Qaul
- 1916 Programme Preview
- 1920 Songs
- 1925 Press Report
- 1940 Islamiyat: Daur-e-Hazir
- 2000 News
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Hamare Mehman
- 2100 Closedown

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Kill Zone
Starring: Vincent Mathews, Ted Briars

Al Salmiya
The Running Man
Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger

Al Hamra
Hasna' Wa Amalaqah (Arabic)
Starring: Huwaida, Hikmat Wahba, Fuad Sharf-uddin

Drive-In
Al Mazzaikati (Arabic)
Starring: Sayed Ziyani, Saeed Saleh, Sabirin
(Two Shows: 7 pm and 9.30 pm)

Al Firdous
Ram aur Shyam (Hindi)
Starring: Dilip Kumar, Waheeda Rehman, Mumtaz

Fahsheel Open-air
Daulat (Bengali)
Al Fahsheel
Down and Out in Beverly Hills
Al Jahra
Glitter Doom
Granada
Doing Time
Salaibikhat
Enemy Afraid (Russian)
Al Jleeb
Decdar (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
War Time

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.19 am
Zuhr	11.45
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.38
Isha	8.07

NIGHT CHEMIST

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Salem Al Mubarak St.

Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Al Abraj Pharmacy
Commercial Centre, Sinan
St., F'heel
Old Khatitan
Al Ahram Pharmacy
Sulaiman Saleh Rahaimani
Complex, Block 2

Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opp. Cooperative Society



● A time management course was recently held at the Meridien hotel, Kuwait, by Peter Kerrison, regional director of human resources for department heads. Above: Kerrison with trainees. The 'Train and Trainer' and 'Quality Circles' courses trainees are also pictured.

Flassik cooking class

The monthly Flassik cooking class will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel on Wednesday, May 25, 4 pm. For details call Rory — 2530000 F/B Office.

Jumble sale

St Paul's jumble sale will be held in the Anglo-American School Hall, Ahmadi, from 2.30 pm on Friday, May 27. Clothes, shoes, toys, books, electrical and household items will be offered at bargain prices. All are welcome.

Yugoslavian Festival

Dusica Obradovic, a well-known Yugoslavian singer and the Vucica Mitrovic folklore group will perform at the Kuwait Hilton Grand Ballroom on May 28, 29 and 30 at 8 pm. Tickets for the show are available in the hotel lobby.

Saaz aur Awaz

The Saaz aur Awaz group presents their second concert on June 16 at the Indian Arts Circle. Funaites, Shahnaz Karim, Sabina, Badar Siddiqui, Doreen D'Souza, Kusum Sagar, Riyasat Ali and Divya are among the performers.

The music will be by the Anwar Hussein orchestra.

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn
"Best of British" will be featured nightly from 8 pm, until May 27. Along with a colourful display in the lobby, English Tea Room, serving fish 'n' chips, the Caledonian pipers and dancers will perform. At the Andalus, traditional dishes from all over Britain, jazz band and a chance to win BA return ticket to London.

At the Meridien

The Versailles is open daily for lunch and dinner featuring Continental cuisine and a selection of meats and seafood. Charcoal grilled specialties also offered. Live entertainment in the evening.

SPORTS

Kuwait Nomads Rugby Club

There will be an end of season work party at the Fintas Park Ground on Thursday, May 26, at 4 pm. All members are urged to attend.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Boushahri Gallery
Watercolour paintings by Yugoslav artist Jovica Prodancic is open at the Boushahri Gallery, Salem Al Mubarak St. Salmiya, from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.40 pm.

THEATRE

Kuwait Singers
"Songs for a Summer Evening" is the title of a concert by the Singers. It will be held on May 31 and June 1 at the UAS, Salwa. Tickets — KD2. For reservations ring 3940770 ext. 57: 5384873: 5740627 (answering service).

Bengali Cultural Society
The society will present "Bichhan", a Hindi drama based on a story by Bengali novelist Mahasweta Devi, on June 2, 3, 9 and 10: 7.30 pm, at the Mousetrup Theatre, New English School. For reservations contact 3903976: 3901806: 561379.

I Got Rhythm
A musical show featuring Reem Yousef Kelani will be presented in the Grand Ballroom, Regency Palace Hotel, on June 2, Thursday. Tickets — KD10 including dinner. Produced and directed by Glenis Muckle and Kerry Langley. All proceeds will be donated to the British charity Medical Aid for Palestinians to help Dr Pauline Cutting, OBE, and her team, to provide medical care for refugees. For reservations call 5718143: 5387755: 2627003: 5330934.

KLT
K.L.T. Ahmadi, will present Brigadoon, a musical, on June 1, 7.30 pm, gala night. Further performances are at 8.15 pm on June 7, 8, and 9 and at 5.30 pm on June 2, 3. Tickets KD3. Children — KD2. For reservations ring 3983724.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Players
The Players Social Get-together, on June 1, Wednesday. Newcomers welcome. Tel: (pm) 5330934: 5613465: 5611546.

German-Speaking Cultural Association
"The Women in World History," an evening of humour, will be presented at 8 pm on May 29, Sunday, at Kuwait Hilton Hotel, Terrace Room. Tickets — KD1.500 are available from the German embassy and the German School and Library. For reservations phone 3983779.

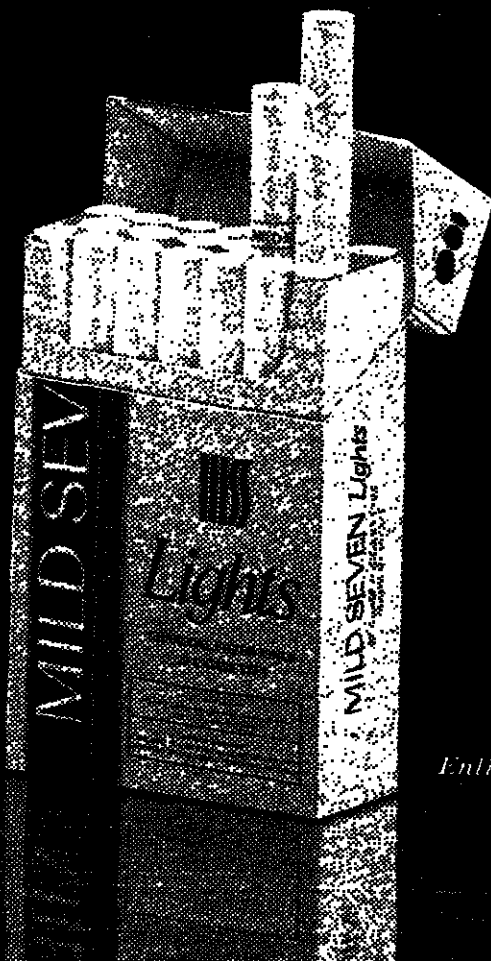
Dutch reception
The Netherlands ambassador and Mrs J.F.R.M. Veling invite all Dutch nationals in Kuwait to a reception on the occasion of the Queen's birthday at the residence on Tuesday, May 24, from 6.30 to 8.30 pm.

Kuwait Caledonians
"Ceilidh" will be held on May 26, Thursday, at the Holiday Inn Hotel: 7.30 pm for 8 pm. Entertainer from Scotland will be Bill Barclay. For reservations phone 5610673 or 5335082.

Kuwait Welsh Society
The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 29, 7.30 pm, at Messilah Beach Hotel.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A CHILD educated only at school is an uneducated child — George Santayana, Spanish poet-philosopher (1863-1952).

Uprising digging in for long struggle

By Paul Taylor

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): Israeli leaders claim it is dying, but a Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip appears to be alive and well, and digging in for a long struggle.

After more than five months of revolt against Israeli rule, stone-throwing Palestinians are still clashing with troops daily, despite at least 183 deaths, thousands of injuries and the jailing of nearly 10,000 people.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin noted this week that violence was now far less widespread than between January and March, and said Israeli security and economic measures were gradually exhausting the 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupation zone.

But a confidential report to Rabin by his own experts contradicts these assertions and forecasts a long and violent conflict, defence sources say.

Leading Palestinians say Israeli talks of an end to the uprising is mere wishful thinking. "The intifada (uprising) has become institutionalised. It has put down roots that will be very difficult to uproot," said Daoud Kuttub, an East Jerusalem journalist and commentator. "It will stay long after the stones have stopped flying, which incidentally they haven't."

Battle

The battle between the Israeli authorities and the Palestinians has spread from the streets to the homes, workplaces, hearts, minds and wallets of the population.

The Israelis have tried to wear the Arabs down with curfews, harassment, bureaucracy and financial hardship. They have managed to reduce the flow of outside money supporting the uprising to a trickle.

Palestinians have countered with their own self-help organisations. Kuttub and other Arab intellectuals point to a network of committees which have

sprouted like an embryonic self-government in the occupied territories.

The committees organise strikes and run underground schools, basic health and welfare services for casualties of the uprising and families of the imprisoned and those who have quit Israeli jobs. They organise local security vigils, legal aid and agriculture for those who have begun cultivating plots of land.

This organisation has given Palestinians an unprecedented self-esteem and sense of togetherness which is the spirit of the intifada.

Losing

"Who is losing more, us or the Israelis?" asked Said, a local organiser in the village of Beit Ummar. "Our people have never felt better, despite the hardships."

The size of crowds that still defy Israeli security forces to demonstrate on occupied Jerusalem's Temple Mount and in the hundreds of scattered villages in the West Bank belie Israeli talk of fatigue and demoralisation.

Palestinians may have realised the uprising will not put an early end to the 21-year-old Israeli occupation, as some had believed, but they seem in no mood to stop the revolt.

Hundreds of youths arrested in the first weeks of unrest are due out of Israeli prison camps in the coming weeks. They will return to their villages and refugee camps as hardened political activists, seen as heroes by their society.

Reporters visiting the West Bank village of Deir Ammar, near Ramallah, this week encountered a crowd of some 150 men armed with stones who had been confronting the Army all day after soldiers bulldozed some roadside trees in punishment for rock-throwing at Israeli vehicles.

There are dozens of such incidents daily and they do not rate mention in the Israeli or foreign media unless protesters are killed or seriously wounded.

Difficult times for communist parties

By Eric Bourne

VIENNA: These are difficult times for communist parties in both Europe.

In the West, the Eurocommunist "wave" of the 70s has sunk into history. Its main standard-bearers, the Italians, have lost their former electoral appeal. Other Western communist parties are quite irrelevant.

East European communist parties, of course, remain in power. But all are facing the most acute challenges to their authority since the first rebel outbursts of the 50s.

East-bloc parties face more than just economic woes. They are disturbed by ethnic conflicts, growing religious and popular unrest, and a deep loss of credibility. The non-East-bloc Yugoslav party is in the same plight.

A leading Hungarian reformer bluntly calls it a "crisis of legitimacy," a delicate subject not normally acknowledged by East-bloc spokesmen. Reform — "transformation of the whole system" — has become "socialism's only serious chance," says Imre Pozsgay.

Pozsgay heads the Patriotic People's Front (PPF), an umbrella organisation embracing communist and non-communists alike and supposedly the popular muscle behind the party's prescribed programme for "building socialism" in Hungary.

The front, however, has now become the champion of even more comprehensive perestroika (restructuring) of party and social institutions than the Gorbachev plan for the Soviet Union.

The important question for communists, Pozsgay warns, comes from "below" and the message is that "things cannot go on as they are." Moreover, it comes not only for workers turning in party cards, but from youth, the future generation.

A Hungarian friend tells of a teacher asking teenagers if their parents were party members. Several flatly refused to say. Others answered reluctantly.

obviously fearful an affirmative response might cost them standing with their classmates. Recent polls in Polish schools revealed an equally negative stance toward party and system.

It is the Hungarians who are most forcefully challenging party influence. Advocates of change in other East European states cannot be so outspoken, even if reform gets official lip service. But the common dilemma is tacitly, if not as explicitly, conceded in frequent lamentation of loss of the old appeal and authority.

The Soviets, the Hungarians, and the Poles are about to hold national party conferences to tackle "renewal." Previously, such conferences were rare, but those there were, were mostly occasions for self-congratulatory stock-taking between full-blown party congresses. If reformers carry the day, this year's conferences will be very different.

Hitherto, party congresses alone endorsed policy and "elected" the party Central Committee. The committee in turn chose the Politburo which then named the leader. The coming conferences, however, will apparently be allowed to bring changes in the party Central Committee — this time by secret ballot — and to make new policy.

There is an extraordinary parallel between what Budapest's more radical reformers are saying and Gorbachev's agenda for the Soviet conference in June.

Gorbachev is out for new party structures and rules unthinkable less than a half-decade ago: competitive nominations for office and secret elections, limits on tenure (party leader included), strict accountability to the rank and file, an open door for noncommunist, non-party talent.

Hungary's PPF has meantime attacked an official document at a conference on May 20 as wholly inadequate and has offered instead proposals that could revolutionise former methods of the exercise of power.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

By Eileen Alt Powell

NEW DELHI, India, (AP): The surrender of Sikh extremists from their Golden Temple lair marks the end of yet another government battle with the separatists, but the war is not over.

During the 10 days that more than 200 Sikh gunmen and their sympathisers were trapped inside the temple complex by a police cordon, their comrades killed 133 people in the holy city of Amritsar and other parts of Punjab state.

Accord

On Thursday, the day after the final surrender at the temple, the slaying of 15 more people were reported in Punjab, including two Hindu priests and a Sikh holy man.

Former Punjab police chief Julio F. Ribeiro, who now serves as security adviser to the state government, was asked if Wednesday's surrender signalled an end to terrorism in the state.

"No, far from it," he said.

Sikh extremists began their guerrilla campaign for a separate homeland six years ago, accusing the Hindu-dominated federal government of discriminating against the minority sect and hampering economic development in Sikh-dominated Punjab.

A peace accord signed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1985 collapsed within a year.

The scattered killings blamed on Sikh radicals in 1982 mushroomed in 1987 and 1988 into widespread assaults on bus passengers, sleeping villagers and congested markets.

Police estimate there are now more than 3,000 Sikh men armed with increasingly sophisticated weapons. The government accuses neighbouring Pakistan of helping to provide the arms. Pakistan denies the charge.

The Indian government's greatest fear is that if the Sikh separatist movement is not contained, it could become a full-blown civil war and set an

undesired example for other restive minorities in the country.

"So far, the terrorists are a small section of the population," said a government official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We want to keep it that way."

Support

Support within the Sikh community for the extremists may be waning. In 1984, an Army raid on the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine of Sikhism, drew hundreds of angry Sikhs to protest rallies around the country.

The latest police action drew almost no objections from Sikh citizens. In fact, a gathering of Sikh temple managers in New Delhi on Wednesday passed a resolution praising what it called the government's "rescue" of the temple from the extremists' grip.

Attempts at a political solution to end the Sikh violence has so far proved elusive. Kushwant Singh, one of India's most respected Sikh

writers, called recently for the government to abandon its past practice of trying to find a single, moderate Sikh to spearhead peace efforts and, instead, move to resolve Punjab's problems head-on.

"What we have to find is not a person or persons to lead the Punjab, but to set out principles of conduct and stick to them no matter what the immediate consequences," Singh wrote in the Hindustan Times newspaper.

Release

He called for the release of hundreds of Sikhs detained without trial for suspected separatist activities, prosecution of Hindu politicians and others accused of instigating anti-Sikh riots in 1984 and new investment to stimulate Punjab's faltering economy.

India's 14 million Sikhs make up less than 2 per cent of the country's 800 million people, but they are a majority in Punjab, the country's most fertile agricultural state.

Although Punjab leads the

nation in wheat and rice production, it is falling behind other states in industrial development. The Sikhs are particularly angry that banks invest their savings in projects outside the state.

To date, the government approach to Punjab has alternated between conciliation and crackdown.

In June 1984, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi sent the Indian Army into the Golden Temple complex to rid it of extremists. Less than five months later, she was shot to death by two Sikh bodyguards in revenge.

Settlement

Rajiv Gandhi, her son and successor, negotiated his Punjab accord the following year, but moderate Sikhs were never able to get it fully implemented or to convince the extremists it would answer their grievances.

The accord called for the settlement of land and water disputes between Punjab and neighbouring Haryana state, an inquiry into the anti-Sikh riots

that followed Indira Gandhi's death and speedy handling of arrest and detention cases.

A frustrated Rajiv put the state under federal rule in May 1987. But last March, he ordered the release from prison of militant Sikh high priest Jasbir Singh Rode, whom many saw as a possible intermediary with Sikh gunmen.

Rode was arrested last week trying to march on the temple to end the police siege, and it is not yet known what role, if any, he will play in trying to pacify Punjab in coming days.

All the while, the people of Punjab feel they are living under siege.

The independent Statesman newspaper on Thursday described Amritsar, the Sikh holy city of 800,000 people, as "India's Beirut," saying "shooting has become a way of life."

It quoted one resident as saying: "We have seen terrorism. We have seen shooting again and again."



By Robert Evans

MOSCOW, (Reuters): "We had no choice," says General Vladimir Lobov. "The Afghan government asked us 16 times to come in and the point came when waiting any longer would have meant betraying our friends."

"Our institute," recalls academician Oleg Bogomolov, "expressed a profoundly negative attitude to the sending of troops into Afghanistan. We warned of the harm it would cause and said it had little chance of success."

"I do not consider it was a mistake, either political or military," Vladimir Sevruk of the Communist Party's Propaganda Department, told Reuters correspondent Helen Womack in Kabul this week.

Debate

"It is a pity they didn't ask the specialists on the area," declares veteran Moscow journalist and expert on Muslim affairs Igor Belyayev. "I certainly would not have recommended sending in our forces."

As the first Soviet troops pulling out of Afghanistan under the April Geneva peace agreements begin crossing the border and heading for home, the question is being increasingly asked in Moscow: Was it all worthwhile?

The emerging debate, involving the unprecedented public questioning — if in retrospect —

Moscow debates Afghan intervention

of a key Kremlin foreign policy move, differs radically from the post-Vietnam war discussion in the United States in the early 1970s.

During and after the Vietnam conflict, many American commentators questioned the "defence of freedom" motives proclaimed by successive administrations in Washington.

But in Moscow all sides insist, both on and off the record, that the intentions of then Kremlin leader Leonid Brezhnev and his inner circle of colleagues who took the decision in December 1979 were generally honest, if totally misguided.

"We went in not to win or lose battles," argues Lobov, first deputy chief of the general staff. "We did it because the Afghan people asked us to help defend their independence."

Feuding

Journalist Alexander Prokhanov, a moderate critic of the operation, says the Kremlin was moved by a conviction that the presence of Soviet forces would "counter-balance powerful pressure from outside."

The then leadership, he says, believed the intervention would also help put an end to the bloody

feuding between the two wings of the ruling PDPA People's Democratic Party which came to power in a leftist military coup in April 1978.

A 25-year-old veteran of the war, Alexander Karpenko, gave a soldier's view. "Coming back from Afghanistan, our boys often ask themselves: Why was I there?" he says.

"But then when we remembered the poverty and the children, we could see a meaning in the fact that we often risked our own lives delivering food to parts of the country where there was real starvation."

Belyayev, now foreign affairs analyst for the weekly Literary Gazette after years as Pravda correspondent in the Middle East, does not contest these views.

But he has a more pessimistic vision of the outcome of the intervention, which he argues has strengthened the influence of anti-Soviet Muslim fundamentalism in Afghanistan, creating a potential problem for Moscow in its Central Asian Republics.

Activated

"It is the Afghan's own affair whether they have an Islamic republic or not. But by sending in our troops we activated the people who stand at the head of the (guerrilla) alliance of seven in Peshawar," he told Reuters in an interview.

"Recently one of them declared: 'The task is now an Islamic revolution and an Islamic republic, and then we have to set up links with our Muslim brothers and fellow believers in the Soviet Union.'"

"That is a point that worries us, naturally. By sending in troops, we helped them put that point onto the political agenda in Afghanistan," Belyayev said.

"We have now effectively recognised our historical mistake. And that is, that the despatch of troops, although it was justified by the requests from the Afghan side, was not necessary."

"We did not take into account the character of Afghanistan and the degree of its development. It is a country that was not even ready for a national democratic revolution, let alone a socialist one."

"Economic backwardness and the strength of tribal, family and clan relationships were much more powerful than we could allow ourselves to imagine."

"I do not believe the Afghans want to carry through a revolution, although our mission was to help them do so," Belyayev said.

By Kathy Wilhelm

BEIJING, (AP): After six months in office, Premier Li Peng remains something of a mystery — but not a very exciting one.

Universally described as methodical, and attuned to solving problems rather than politicking, the 59-year-old Li is generally regarded as the kind of leader China needs to solve supply, infrastructure and other problems strangling the decade-old modernisation drive.

Still unclear, however, is whether Li has a grasp on these problems and has charted a solution.

Overshadowed by his predecessor, the urbane and natively dressed Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, and without power to formulate policy single-handedly, Li has offered no bold initiatives.

He has given few clues to his personal vision of China's future or his goals in office, other than reducing the 11 per cent inflation rate.

Cautious

Diplomats describe him as uninterested in the social exchanges that form a traditional part of international diplomacy. He frequently cuts short photo sessions with foreign leaders so the two sides can get down to business.

Despite being one of the five members of the Communist Party politburo's standing committee, China's most powerful policy-making body, he is as cautious in his public statements as a lowly bureaucrat.

Li remains dogged by the assumption that he owes his job to nepotism — his adoptive father was the late Premier Chou En-Lai. His rise to the premiership was meteoric — he was appointed acting premier in November, just eight years after being given his first government post as minister of power.

The National People's Congress, China's legislature, confirmed him as premier in April. Within days, he was the target of satirical attacks in posters put up by students at Beijing University.

"If Li Peng can become premier, who can't?" asked one of the anonymous posters that appeared overnight on a campus bulletin board and were quickly

Chinese premier faces tough task

taken down. Li's main credentials for the job were his technical skills and connections. Trained as an engineer in the Soviet Union, he spent most of his career managing power projects and never ran a city or provincial government.

After being appointed minister of power in 1979, he rose in rapid succession to vice-premier in 1983, party politburo member in 1985 and education minister later that year. As education minister, he escaped being held responsible for the widespread pro-democracy student demonstrations of 1986-87, saving himself by denouncing liberal intellectuals.

Many intellectuals dislike him for that and for his failure to improve their salaries and living conditions.

Unpopularity is the least of Li's problems in a country where premiers are selected by top party leaders, not the public.

He must cope with inflation that has climbed from 6 per cent two years ago to 11 per cent, chronic supply bottlenecks and ingrained laziness and waste in government offices and state factories.

Policy

But the Communist Party, not the premier, sets policy in China. Any dramatic initiatives would need the approval of his fellow members on the Politburo Standing Committee, including Zhao, who might not take kindly to being upstaged by Li.

An Asian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Zhao became premier in 1980 with a "mandate for change, and he had policy choices. (Li) comes to office with the policy already set and he can't run the risk of appearing to oppose it — that would be sudden political death."

That leaves Li with the less glamorous task of implementing policies set by Zhao. When Li took office, there was widespread speculation that he favoured central planning and opposed Zhao's market-style reformist policies.

Plan to join nuclear sub club

Canada facing opposition

By Russell Blinich

OTTAWA, (Reuters): Canada's plan to join an exclusive military club by building a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines is being met by opposition at home and abroad.

Besides the expected opposition from disarmament groups, powerful interests in the US defence establishment and in Europe want to prevent Canada from joining the elite group of countries operating the sophisticated and powerful craft.

Only five countries — the United States, Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union — operate fleets of so-called "hunter-killer" submarines.

The Canadian government is looking to acquire the technology from either France or Britain to build 10 to 12 of the submarines in Canada for a total of \$6.7 billion.

Fierce competition is being waged by the two countries for the prize order, which will be Canada's largest defence outlay ever. Britain hopes to sell its Trafalgar class submarine while France is touting its smaller but cheaper Rubis Class.

The submarine programme is the centrepiece of an ambitious scheme by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's conservative government to refurbish Canada's

military arsenal.

As the Canadian Defence Department candidly admitted in a policy paper: "The truth... is that much of the equipment of most elements of the Canadian forces is in an advance state of obsolescence or is already obsolete."

After World War II, Canada laid claim to one of the world's largest navies.

But after years of neglect under a succession of Liberal governments the Navy dwindled to a rag-tag selection of some 26 ageing warships — a cut of 50 per cent since 1963.

The Defence Department argues the fast-moving nuclear submarines will allow a much better defence of the three oceans off Canada's shores.

Capability

And probably most importantly, nuclear submarines are the only vessels capable of surveillance under the ice in the Arctic, where Canada is increasingly concerned about intrusions from both Soviet and US craft.

However, unlike some of its foes, Canadian submarines will be nuclear-powered but conventionally armed.

"It is going to give us a very, very credible maritime capability," Rear Admiral John

Anderson, chief of submarine acquisition, told Reuters in an interview.

But Canadian defence critics argue that Canada could be buying off more than it can chew with the hi-tech hardware. Some say Canada is placing too much of its defence resources in the submarine programme which is equivalent to nearly 80 per cent of its yearly defence budget.

"No one really has estimated how much it will cost Canada to build this," said Tariq Rauf, senior research assistant at the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament, a privately and publicly-funded think-tank.

The British weekly the Economist, echoing other criticism in Europe, called the Canadian plan "astounding" in a recent editorial and argued the money would be better spent boosting Canada's commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

"Let Canada concentrate on getting its defence spending up to the level of at least West Germany's and on building up its European land and air forces to a useful level — about five times what they are now," the magazine said.

The Canadian government is to announce in the next few weeks whether to employ the British or French design.



Making light of travel

By Lee Radziwill

TRAVEL is the great lure of our time. The whole world is our oyster, and we are inundated with possibilities to choose from. Speed has obviously made travel much easier for everyone, but it has taken away much of the mystique and adventure. We are no longer so impressed when friends announce that they have just returned from such faraway places as Russia, Tibet or China. These countries are increasingly accessible, and now it's possible to travel there on your own.

What do we look for from travel?

Sensual refinement? A reservoir of imagery? Time to expand the myth of our cramped and functional lives? Alan Ross asked in his book *The Gulf of Pleasure*.

I think it's different for each of us, ranging from a change, to freedom, knowledge, relaxation. But whatever it is, one shouldn't expect too much. The less you expect, the less chance you have of being disappointed. One has heard the phrase many times, but it bears repeating: Go with an open mind.

My general observation is that, when people travel abroad, they feel obligated to cover too much ground, to take in too many cathedrals and museums.

The result is that they often come back from a long-planned trip feeling more exhausted than refreshed. There's nothing wrong with staying in one place and simply enjoying the atmosphere and another way of life. To me, it's far more civilized

than trying to cram in so much that you begin to feel as though you are in the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. This, I must be, I don't consider that kind of travel pleasurable.

I also prefer not to go on a tour, even when travelling to China or Russia. There are many advantages to a tour — it's convenient to have someone else make all the arrangements and plan the itinerary — but you give up a lot for the convenience.

You tend to stay with your own group and you're insulated from personal contact with the people in the country you're visiting, and that, after all, is a major part of foreign travel.

You also lose that feeling of freedom that is the point of a vacation if every step of the way has been arranged. And a rigid schedule takes away your own sense of discovery. It can be fun and much more interesting to take a chance and not be obligated by reservations. Should something go wrong, and something often does, don't let it spoil your trip. Think of it as part of the adventure!

Travelling light has always been my dream, but I have yet to master it! I worry that the weather will be the opposite of what it's meant to be or maybe something unexpected will come up so I'd better pack another dress or sweater... just in case.

Travelling a lot has given me attachments to such habits as bringing my own small pillow or the comfort of a terry-cloth dressing gown even though both take up too much space.

But, when you don't know what to expect, it's nice to have a few familiar things with you.

Jeanes are most comfortable than anything else for travelling, but wear something that doesn't look as if you've slept in it all night, even though you probably have! If you've taken an overnight flight and arrive in the morning, take a short nap, then force yourself to stay awake until at least 10:30 pm local time; otherwise, you will wake up on and off all night and feel a ruin the next day.

It is good manners, not to mention helpful, to learn at least a few basic phrases in the language of the country you will be visiting. And be sure to take along a pocket-size dictionary and phrase book, to help you decipher menus, shop wisely and ask for directions in places where little or no English is spoken. A miniature-size calculator is also a big help. Unless you are a whiz at math, currency conversion can be very confusing!

By now, everyone who travels must know you will feel a great deal better if you drink as much mineral water as possible during the flight. It's also sensible to eat very little or, even better, nothing at all.

I would certainly suggest travelling during the off-season if possible, not only because of lower fares but also to avoid the crowds.

A great deal of travel is a waiting game: airport delays, waiting for your hotel room to be ready, waiting for the train to come in. So, finally, remember that the most essential requisite for the traveler is patience!

By Seva Ulman

ANKARA, (Reuters): Turkey, enjoying an unprecedented tourism boom, expects to lure four million foreign visitors to its sun-baked beaches and dramatic reminders of ancient civilisations this year.

This prediction by officials compares with the 1987 total of 2.2 million, itself a record.

A relatively new mass industry in Turkey, tourism has become a major revenue source to boost the economy.

An investment drive to put Turkey firmly on the tourist map is backed by new-found political stability and a weakening local currency, making it one of Europe's cheapest sun spots.

Apart from beaches and ruins, Turkey offers delights ranging from splendours of the former Ottoman Empire in Istanbul to scenic mountain walks, fishing, sailing and wild boar hunting.

Wonders

Two wonders of the ancient world — the tomb of Mausolus at Bodrum and the temple of Diana at Ephesus — are in Turkey, along with countless other sites depicting a glorious past.

Turkey was home to nine major civilisations, including the Hittites, Lydians, Romans, and the Seljuk and Ottoman Turks.

"A boom in tourism is expected in 1988," said Ergun Goksan, chairman of the Aegean Travel Association. Most hotels on the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts are already fully booked.

Tour operators say demand for hotels and other accommodation rose sharply after last November's general election. Turkey's most open poll since the 1980 army coup.

Some operators believe potential tourists in past years may have been put off Turkey because of a false image of a country ruled by generals with tanks on street corners.

Officials say tourism revenues this year are likely to reach two billion dollars, compared with \$25 million dollars in the first eight months of 1987, the

Turkish delights lure tourists

latest figures available.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal is encouraging heavy investment in tourism and hotels, which he hopes will earn Turkey an annual five billion dollars by 1992.

To keep pace with demand, investment in tourism has been speeded up and now stands at 1.5 billion dollars. Most projects are financed by the Tourism Bank through credits.

Tourism Bank director-general Serhan Altinordu said the bank extended 275 billion lira (275 million dollars) in credits for 255 projects last year.

Nearly 45 per cent of credits went to the Mediterranean region, along with the Aegean coast the areas most favoured by sun worshippers.

Boost

Ozal opened a new airport in the Aegean port city of Izmir last November to boost tourism. Turkey's largest airport after Istanbul, it can handle four million passengers a year.

Most tourists come from Europe. West Germans last year were again the largest single group, with 250,000 arrivals.

The number of visitors from the United States and Asia has risen but there has been a fall off from Arab countries, hurt by lower oil prices.

Most investment is being directed into areas where Turkey is seriously lacking — hotel space and trained personnel.

The number of tourist beds will rise to 220,000, many in new hotels, by 1990 from 120,000 at the end of 1987, Altinordu said.

Hotels prices vary, from around \$12 a night for a basic

room in outlying areas to \$160 for a first class hotel in Istanbul within sight of the Topkapi Palace, the Bosphorus and other attractions.

Holiday with a difference

Walking in wild Wales

The country's unique network of ancient rights-of-way are well worth discovering on a walking holiday, and simple pleasures such as chatting with fellow walkers, negotiating stepping stones across streams, discovering wild flowers... combine to make it a magical experience

By Bob Barton

"BRING a strong, waterproof cagoule, warm sweater, a pair of well worn-in walking boots, vacuum flask and a small rucksack," advised the letter from Welsh Wanderer. The preparations sounded like those for a military exercise rather than a weekend of walking in the hills of mid Wales, 170 miles west of London.

We met our fellow walkers, and tour guide Geoff Elliott, for dinner in the rambling black-and-white Caer Beris Manor Hotel, set in acres of wooded grounds near the market town of Builth Wells. The small party of couples and individuals from Britain and as far afield as the USA, Australia and the Netherlands soon got to know each other, and discussed the following day's assault on the upper Wye valley, a beautiful region of high open moorlands and wooded

hollows — reputedly the haunt of herons and buzzards.

Morning dawned bitterly cold and damp, with a thick mist surrounding the 19th-century hotel, once the home of Lord Swansea. Enthusiasm undampened, eager walkers donned layers of sweaters followed by their cagoules, and headed into the Welsh countryside, led by Geoff wearing nothing more than casual trousers and an open-neck shirt.

Geoff's optimism was well-founded: within a few minutes of setting out, climbing steadily uphill, we found we had risen above the mist into a wonderland of crisp sunshine and blue skies!

For the next few hours, as we ambled across the warm, green hills high above the River Wye, there were awe-inspiring views of mist-shrouded valleys below, with hills rising up through the banks of clouds in a wonderful, almost surreal

fashion. Above, a buzzard appeared, as if on cue, gliding in a warm airstream.

Though the walking pace was steady, it was well within the capability of any reasonably fit person, and there was plenty of time to stop here and there so the guide could impart some of his local knowledge and love of Wales: the flora and fauna, farming methods, local legends, history and so on.

At mid-morning everyone stopped for a hot drink from the flasks that had been dutifully filled with steaming tea or coffee by the hotel kitchen. Later, the lunch stop coincided with our arrival at a tranquil hill-top lake called Pant-y-Llyn: below was a misty panorama of the wooded valley. And still to come was our descent through frosty pine-woods to the Wye itself, where salmon were seen fighting their way through powerful rapids.

Welsh Wanderer, which started with just one tour in 1987, now has a programme of five Welsh walking tours, each repeated several times during the year: one in the north, one in mid Wales, and three in the south. Varying in length from two to seven nights, they all include full breakfast, dinner and packed lunch; the services of a guide and a knowledgeable evening speaker, and accommodation in friendly country hotels. Prices vary according to time of year and duration of trip, but range from £66 for a spring weekend to £307 for a full week in summer.

Wales is an ideal destination for walkers. A compact principality of just over 8,000 square miles, it is predominantly rural (there are three sheep to each person) and packed with scenic features.

There are three National Parks: the biggest is Snowdonia in the north, a mountainous region of forests, lakes, waterfalls and wide estuaries, and the highest mountain in England and Wales at 3,560ft. South, the high moorland and wooded gorges of the Brecon Beacons National Park is dotted with antiquities ranging from priories to castles — even a Roman fort, Y Gaer.

All the parks have a wide selection of well-marked walks within their boundaries (full details can be obtained from local tourist information centres) but perhaps the most dramatic long-distance walk



A hiker's view of Snowdon, highest mountain in England and Wales.



The upper Wye valley near Builth Wells.

can be found in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park in the south-west. The 180-mile path, easily divisible into manageable stages, hugs the shore and traverses jagged cliffs soaring to 300 feet; hidden coves and tree-lined estuaries; undoubtedly one of Europe's most spectacular coastlines, and a haven for wild flowers and nesting seabirds.

Another unique footpath goes from north to south, the full length of Wales. The 168-mile Offa's Dyke Path follows the route of an earthwork constructed in the 8th century by Offa, King of Mercia, passing through the Wye Valley and pastoral Shropshire Hills before meeting the North Wales coast at Prestatyn.

Most paths are well signposted and mapped, and it is never far to the next farmhouse or cottage offering bed-and-breakfast accommodation, so it is easy to arrange your own walking holiday. Those who like the added comforts of an organised tour and the intimate knowledge of a guide, can opt for the well-run tours run by Welsh Wanderer and other companies.

Footpath Holidays, for example, cover nine to 12 miles daily, staying in well-appointed country hotels. They offer seven days walking the Pembrokeshire Coast Path for £221, or five or seven days in the Welsh Borders, including part of Offa's Dyke, from £170.

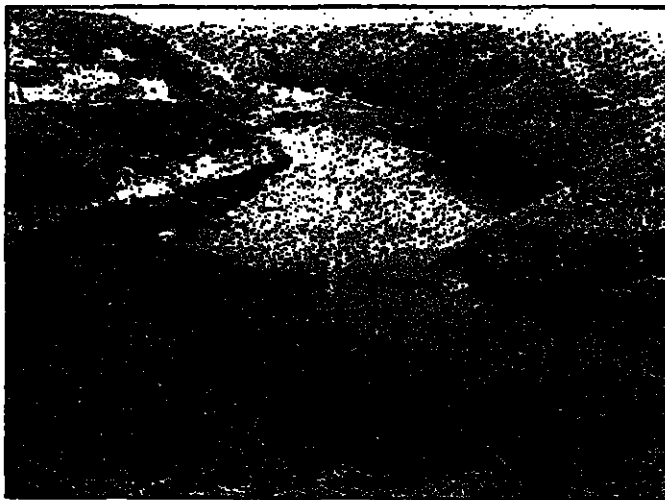
Most of HF's Welsh holidays are based at their own country house at Conwy, with a selection of walks of varying

grades into Snowdonia and the beautiful Conwy Valley. New for 1988 is 'Ridges and Scrambles of Snowdonia', for experienced hill-walkers with a head for heights. Tours cost from £149 a week, full-board.

Sightings of red kites, falcons and merlins are likely on the Welsh Wayfarer Holidays organised by Gordon Green. Based in Llanwrtyd Wells, the smallest town in Britain, daily walks of about ten miles head into the Cambrian Mountains and the Elan Valley, often called the Welsh Lake District. Available year-round on selected dates, the walking holidays cost from £19 a day, full board.

For those who do not want to be led, but want every comfort provided, "Hillscapes" provides the answer. Anne and Richard Wilson run a remote and delightful guest house set in the Ystwyth Valley of mid Wales. They have planned a selection of 35 local walks and supply maps and detailed directions to their guests. Costing from £16.50 per day, £103 per week, the price includes meals made using local produce, and walkers are welcomed home each day to tea and cakes and, that most important of luxuries, a hot bath!

The country's unique network of ancient rights-of-way are well worth discovering on a walking holiday, and simple pleasures such as chatting with fellow walkers; negotiating stepping stones across streams; discovering wild flowers and finding country pubs combine to make it a magical experience.



Solva, on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path.



Chepstow Castle, on Offa's Dyke Path.



Marlboro Lights

GOVERNMENT WARNING: SMOKING IS A MAIN CAUSE OF LUNG CANCER AND DISEASES OF THE LUNGS, HEART AND ARTERIES.



Vv Nikolaus Prede

Singapore is the envy of many another of the region's capitals for its pulsating financial and business life and the high-rise skyline that echoes Manhattan.

In hotels and supermarkets, restaurants, shopping centres, banks, conference halls and the impeccably polished Changi airport, cameras keep a constant eye on the flow of humanity.

Hidden cameras have also been installed elsewhere, keeping a lookout for men who urinate in lifts. If the camera registers an offence, the lift immediately stops. The offender is forced to push the alarm button for help.

It is the fifth campaign of its type in the past ten years, and Matiar concedes that victory is not complete: "Singaporeans still have a lot to learn about keeping toilets clean."

By Thomas Lanig

Transport Secretary Peter Bottomley warns that the trend towards use of private transportation will continue. Whereas in 1974 only 35.5 per cent of those employed in the capital used cars to get to work, the figure will rise to 45.2 per cent in 1991 and is projected to exceed 52 per cent in 2001.

The building firm Costain places a price tag of 4 billion pounds on the 25-kilometre project. Charges for using the tunnel would be 5 pounds for cars, 10 pounds for trucks and 25 pounds for buses, making the project a possible source of interest to private investors.

By Werner Simon

The huge ashtrays so commonplace in airline reservations offices, at train stations and airports disappeared over night. The regulations stipulates that people may no longer smoke while queuing up.

Americans have the biggest problem dealing with a particular aspect of the anti-smoking legislation. The legislation is not to be enforced by police. Officials are to punish violations through complaints from nonsmokers who feel harassed. That amounts to denunciation, a very un-American phenomenon.

ANTI-POLLUTION campaigners in Bombay have been alarmed by a government plan to build a 500 megawatt coal-fired power plant in a densely populated and already highly polluted part of the city, writes Aisha Ram. Bombay, the industrial hub of India and one of the most densely populated cities in the world, is already "gasping for breath," according to the campaigners. Mr. T. R. Mahadeva of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has joined in the chorus of disapproval, declaring that when the new plant will be burning 800 tons of coal daily, the township of Matunga will be "breathed in" and the health of the city already contains particulate matter double the level considered safe by the Indian Standards Institute, and according to the director of the Urban Development Institute, city residents currently "inhale polluted air equivalent to smoking 20 cigarettes a day."

DAKOTA	SPOT	MET
AVID	BLUEDEVILS	
MELE	SARRE	ARIA
PROD	PEAS	NEAR

**BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
PREPARE THE GROUND**

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q J 6 4
 K 9 8 3
 A K
 ♣ A 7

Once the cue-bidding sequence showed that there were not two fast losers in any suit North, whose hand

Since a minor-suit return will give declarer a ruff-suff, whichever defender wins the club will have to return a heart, if he has one. When that defender leads a heart, declarer simply allows it to run to fourth hand. Either he will know the suit splits 3-2, or else he will have a finesse position against the other honor. Try it—you will see it works against either defender.

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YOUR STARS



You will be able to do something you have wanted to do for some while now. You should not take too much for granted at this time. You should not neglect an infection because it is not serious.

You must keep calm whatever the provocation. You will not be quite sure you have done the right thing, but if you have not there will be a chance to rectify the matter.

You should not be in quite such a hurry and you should not gloss over the details. You should not expect to get your way in all things. Nor should you expect miracles. Be to

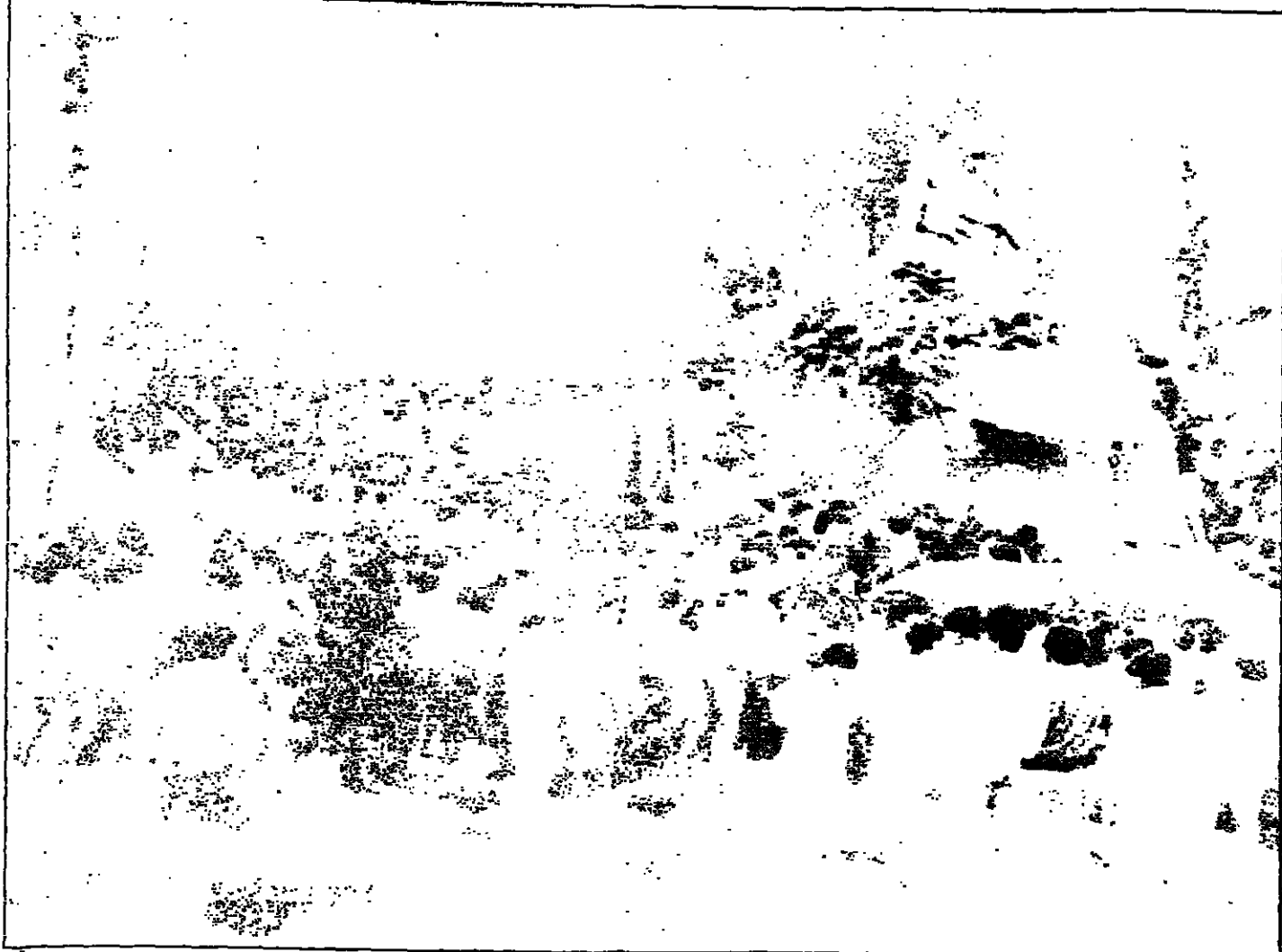
Make sure you do not leave letter unanswered. Nor should you leave any bills unpaid. This is no time to concern yourself with secondary matters. Be less assertive



**ANSWER TO:
PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

J	O	I	S	T	R	E	E	B	R	A	M
I	N	R	E	R	A	B	B	I	L	O	G
B	L	U	E	R	I	B	B	O	N	U	S
E	Y	E	E	L	A	S	D	R	E	A	D
				B	E	L	T	S	O	O	T
S	T	A	L	L	S	M	O	O	C	H	E
P	E	R	U		S	O	A	R		U	L
A	N	G	E		S	T	O	P	S		N
S	T	U	B		C	A	R	S		D	O
S	E	L	V	A	G	E		A	R	E	T
				O	A	R	S	O	N	E	R
D	A	K	O	T	A		S	P	O	T	M
A	V	I	D		B	L	U	E	D	E	V
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P	R	O	D		P	E	A	S		N	E

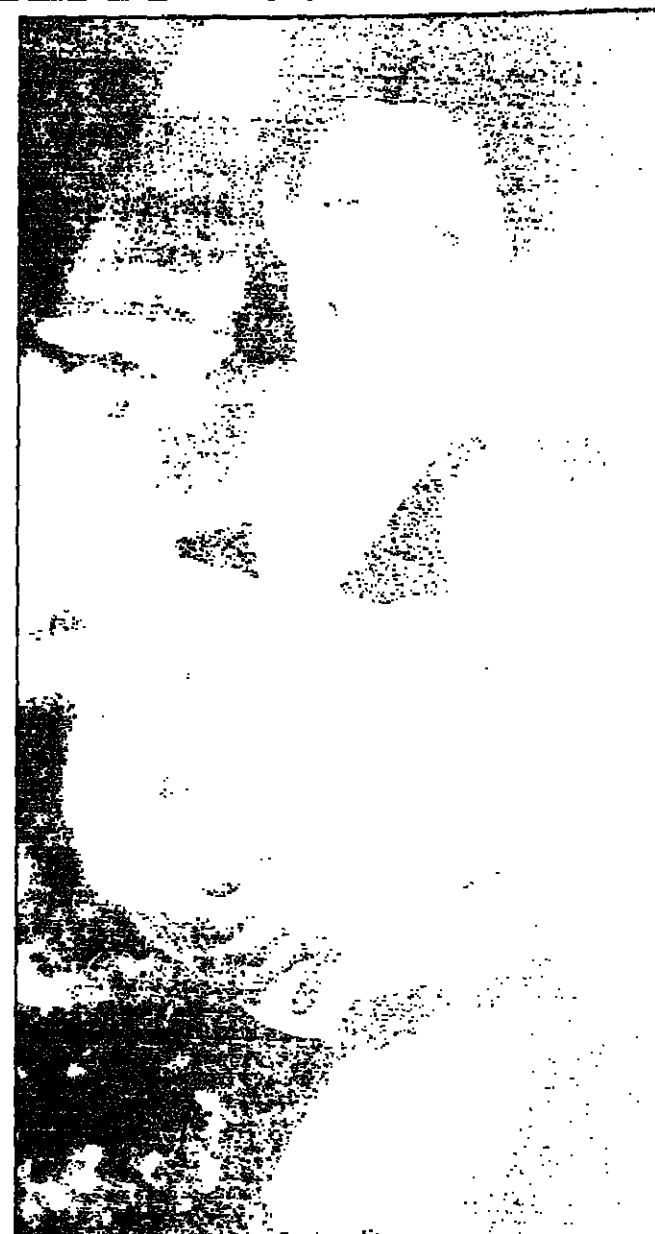
Dr. J. J. J. J.



ABOUT 7,000 students from 40 South Korean universities rally at the Manwol-dong cemetery on Sunday to commemorate victims killed in the Kwangju civilian uprising in 1980. (Reuter wirephoto)



GIORGIO ALMIRANTE, 73, seen in this recent file photo, leader of Italy's neo-fascist MSI party for more than 40 years, died on Sunday, the party said. Almirante, a former official in the government of dictator Benito Mussolini, helped to found the Movimento Sociale Italiano in December 1946. (Reuter wirephoto)



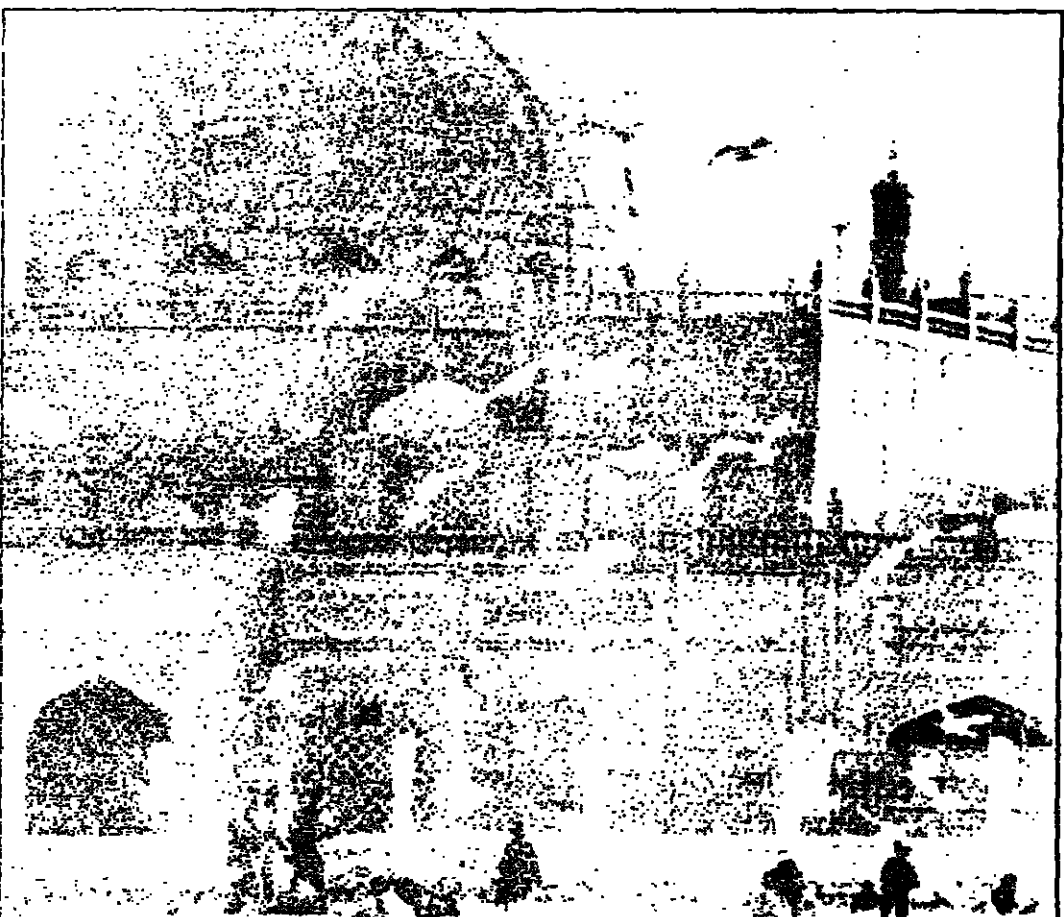
NICK CORWIN, eight, was shot to death in his second grade classroom on Friday at the Hubbard Woods elementary school in Illinois. A babysitter, Laurie Gann, also shot five other children in the room and later shot college athlete before shooting and killing herself. (Reuter wirephoto)



FORMER Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie, shown here in a 1974 file photo, addressing loyal troops following a revolt by armed forces over better wages. Seven female members of Selassie's family were released by Ethiopia's Marxist government, after being held in prison without trial since the military coup in 1974. (Reuter wirephoto)



A PALESTINIAN woman flees the Palestinian refugee camp of Shatila in Beirut with her child yesterday. Rival Palestinian factions fought pitched battles in Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps for the control of the two shantytowns. (Reuter wirephoto)



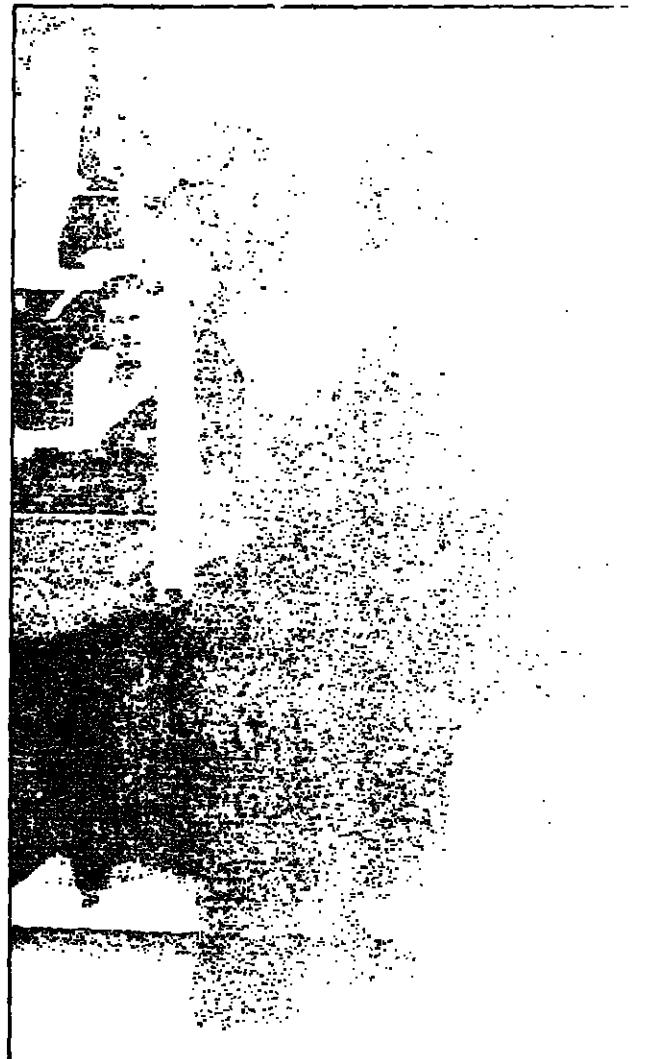
A GROUP of Afghan soldiers walk past the famous Blue Mosque housing the tomb of the Muslim caliph Ali, in the remote northwest corner of Afghanistan on May 18. The site, once an important pilgrimage area, is now almost abandoned due to the nine-year-old civil war. (Reuter wirephoto)



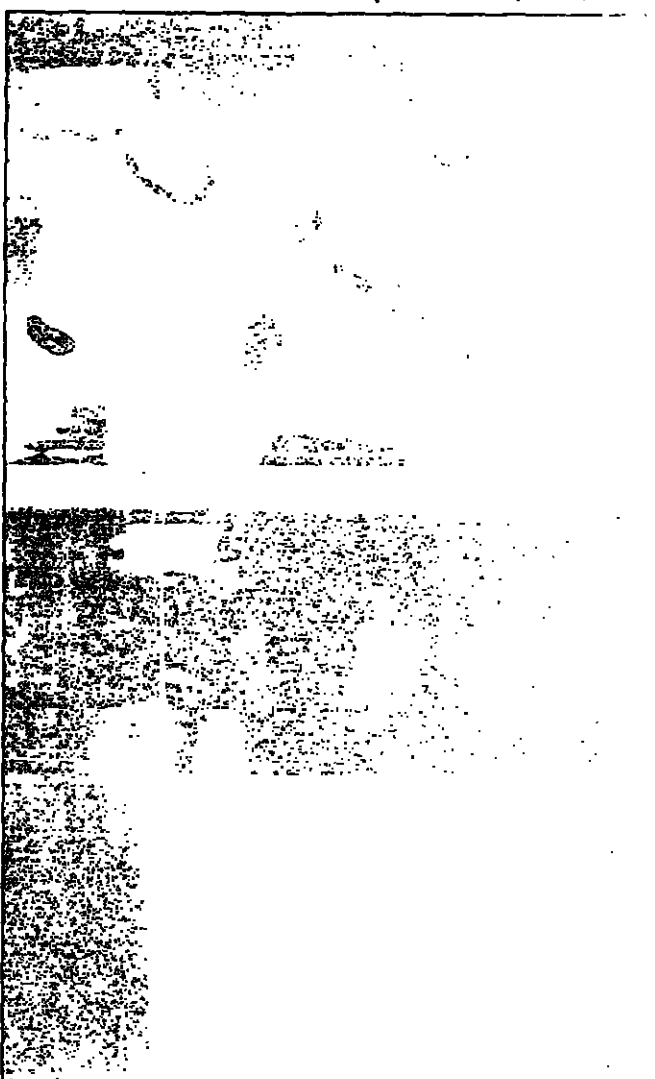
AN Afghan soldier gives garlands to Soviet soldiers at a farewell military parade in Kabul on May 17 as they are about to set off for the border. (Reuter wirephoto)



SOVIET soldiers returning from Afghanistan wave to the crowd from their tank as they arrive at the Soviet border town of Termez on May 18. (Reuter wirephoto)



SPANISH Picador 'Trinidad' and his horse are killed by a 490-kilo charging bull during action in the eighth bullfight of the San Isidro Fair in Madrid. (Reuter wirephoto)



MOSCOW residents will soon be wearing US-Soviet Summit tee-shirts as a sales clerk puts them on display in a shop window at the International Trade Centre in Moscow where they will go on sale tomorrow. (Reuter wirephoto)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Chase to issue credit cards in UK markets

LONDON, May 22 — Chase Manhattan Bank stepped up its involvement in the increasingly competitive British retail-banking business by launching a credit card with a markedly lower interest rate than its U.K. rivals, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The US bank said it will levy an annual interest rate of 16.9 per cent for debit balances, compared with the 23 per cent to 24 per cent charged yearly by Britain's four leading commercial banks.

Chase said it also plans to pay 5.5 per cent on credit balances above £10 (\$18.60). This rate is two percentage points above that paid on ordinary savings accounts by UK building societies.

System

The British are the most enthusiastic users of credit cards in Europe. About 25 million cards have been issued, compared with around seven million in France, the region's second-largest user of cards. But British issuers have been reluctant to follow the fall in bank base rates over the past year. Their hesitancy has created a market gap, Chase officials say.

Chase said its card will be linked to the Visa payments system. Jeffrey Connors, Chase's vice president in charge of consumer banking in Britain, said the card will be targeted at "financially aware and credit-worthy customers." At a news conference, he explained that Chase will seek clients mainly among UK home-owners and existing credit-card holders who can prove they can meet their commitments.

Move

It's difficult to assess how much Chase is investing in the new venture. Promotion costs would be "in the millions of pounds," Connors said. He declined to say how many clients Chase hopes to win. But he said Chase doesn't expect to make a profit from its card until after 1989.

However, Chase's move could pose problems for major British banks' credit-card operations. Britain's high level of credit-card interest rates already is the subject of an investigation by the government's Monopolies and Mergers Commission; the panel is expected to report its findings next year.

Despite sharp drop in pre-tax profits

Big UK banks remain sound, says report

LONDON, May 22: The Bank of England gave Britain's large banks a clean bill of health despite a sharp drop in pre-tax profits last year and an overall decline in capital as a proportion of assets, according to the Wall Street Journal.

In its annual review of the UK banking industry, the central bank nevertheless said it is stepping up its domestic supervisory activities and trying to extend these in the international arena. The report also highlighted a continuing decline in the number of banks in Britain as more small ones close.

The balance sheets of the eight largest British banking groups "are now generally stronger" than before, even though the average equity-to-asset ratio fell to 9.8 per cent last year from 10.5 per cent in 1986, the report said. Balance sheets strengthened because increased loan-loss provisions for troubled debtor countries improved the quality of banks' assets, according to the report.

The central bank said it expects big UK banks to be able to meet "from the outset" an 8 per cent risk-weighted, capital-to-assets ratio that international

bank supervisors currently are negotiating.

The supervisors from the leading industrial countries are expected to agree on the 8 per cent ratio as an international minimum at the end of June.

Profits

Pretax profits of the eight big British banks fell to around £620 million (\$1.15 billion) last year from £3.8 billion (\$7.1 billion) the year before, according to the review. Substantial losses at Midland Bank PLC, Lloyds Bank PLC and Standard Chartered PLC, as well as sharply

reduced profits at the five other big banks, mainly reflected increased provisions for troubled debtor countries to nearly 30 per cent to exposure at the end of 1987 from just less than 10 per cent in 1986.

Looking ahead, the Bank of England said "the prospect of a further sharp increase in country debt provisions on the scale of 1987 has been reduced." But it warned that long robust domestic earnings at big British banks "may come under strain" as competition increases in retail banking.

Big banks already are being hit

by rising costs, flat commission income and troubled investment-banking activities. Bank of England supervisors also worry that the strong expansion in lending for house purchases to £28.8 billion last year from £21.6 billion in 1986 could cause bad debt problems if the British economy slows.

Last year's significant profit plunge at the big U.K. banks contrasts with an average 10 per cent growth in profits and a 25 per cent gain in assets by medium and small British banks, according to the central bank's assessment.

Sterling will fall back against major currencies

Economies still moving ahead

Wall Street refuses to perk up

INVESTORS might well be puzzled that on a day when base rates are cut to 7-1/2 per cent, government stocks weaken and the long gilt yield moves over 9 1/4 per cent. It's a reminder, though, of how transitory markets expect the present situation to be.

With the trade deficit mounting, the increase in take-home pay falling towards 9 per cent, there's no obvious reason why the authorities should be having a solemn holding sterling below DM3.20, and the common expectation is that once the speculators have had their way, the pound will fall back against major currencies — though not, perhaps, against the dollar. Investors Chronicle said in its latest issue.

At that point, it's assumed, interest rates will inevitably rise — an uncomfortable prospect for both shares and gilts.

More immediately, though, it is Wall Street's outlook that is causing most apprehension. The clouds lifted a little this week with the report of a March US trade deficit that, at \$9.7 billion, was well below expectations. But how much is that supposed to be worth? It's only a month ago that the figures proved to be much worse than expected. So what price may?

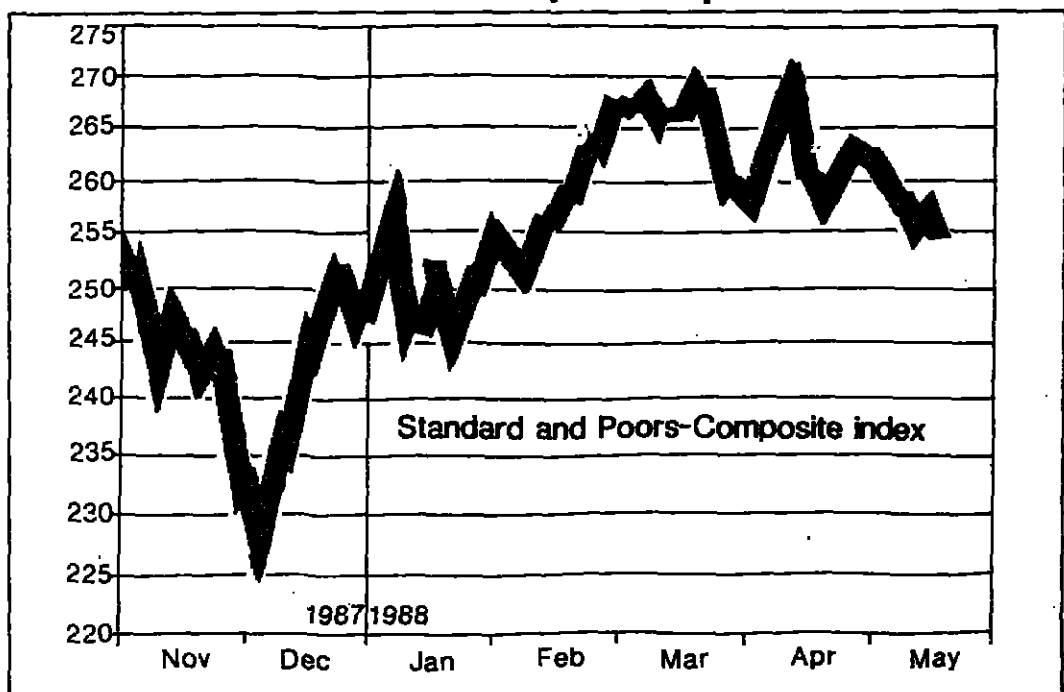
And though the rate of increase is bound to tail off, investors are beginning to work out that the rate of economic

growth in the US is not going to slacken anywhere near as much in 1988 as commentators were saying after last October's share price slump.

And that's also the case in other countries: the outlook for both Japan and Germany has improved in 1988, and although UK growth will decline from last

year's unusually high level, it will still remain good, at 3 per cent or more.

Interestingly, ICI reported that all of its 5 per cent increase in sales volume in the first quarter of 1988 was achieved overseas, especially in Continental Europe and the US; UK volume was "level".



UK inflation rate rises to 3.9pc

LONDON, May 22, (AP): Britain's annual inflation rate rose to a faster-than-expected 3.9 per cent in April from 3.5 per cent in the previous month, the government said yesterday.

Consumer prices rose 1.6 per cent in April from March, the Department of Employment said. The index rose 0.4 per cent in March from the previous month.

The index, which uses a January 1987 base of 100, stood at 105.8 in April, 104.1 in March, and 101.8 in April 1987.

Annual increases in local property taxes and rents and water charges accounted for nearly half of the monthly rise in the index, the department said. The department added that most of higher duties on alcohol, tobacco and gas outlined in the budget for the current fiscal year, which began in April, were reflected in prices for that month.

Market forecasts had called for April's index to post an increase of between 1.2 per cent and 1.5 per cent from March, and an increase of 3.5 per cent to 3.8 per cent from April 1987.

World Business Summary

UAE trade surplus up and higher growth seen

ABU DHABI, May 22, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) trade surplus surged 27.7 per cent to 18 billion dirhams (\$4.9 billion) in 1987 and the economy looks set for higher growth, the Central Bank said today. Higher oil prices boosted total exports and reexports to 44 billion dirhams (\$12 billion), 16.7 per cent up on 1986, the bank estimated in its annual report. Imports rose 10.2 per cent to 26 billion dirhams (\$7.1 billion), with purchases from other Gulf states and some Asian countries growing strongly. "The UAE economy has managed to pull through (past years) of lower rates of growth and is beginning a new phase of real growth," the report said. Gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices rose nine per cent to 88 billion dirhams (\$24 billion) in 1987, the report estimated. Inflation was five to six per cent.

Oil exports rose 15.1 per cent in 1987 to 29 billion dirhams (\$7.9 billion), or 66 per cent of total exports and reexports. Oil prices were close to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) benchmark of \$18 a barrel.

The UAE's oil output averaged 1.08 million barrels per day (bpd) in the first quarter of 1988, oil industry sources say. The country's Opec quota is 948,000 bpd. The bank's report said the decline of the dollar, to which the dirham is pegged, against other major currencies reduced the real value of oil earnings.

The drop in the dirham's effective rate of exchange has restrained the flow of imports in general and particularly lowered the imports of luxury goods, the report said. Non-oil sector exports and reexports, assisted by the dollar's decline, rose 37.5 per cent in 1987 to 11 billion dirhams (\$3 billion). The combined deficits of the federal budget and the budgets of the UAE's seven emirates fell 21.6 per cent to 10.9 billion dirhams (\$2.97 billion), the report said.

KUWAIT HILTON 24th - 26th MAY

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Liberalisation to continue: Tiwari

NEW DELHI, May 22: The Finance Minister, N.D. Tiwari, has made it clear that the process of liberalisation, to achieve rapid economic reform, would continue, according to Economic Times.

The pace of further liberalisation would, however, have to be adjusted from time to time to take care of unforeseen external and domestic developments, if the situation so demanded, the finance minister said in an interview to the Danish magazine, "Development".

Activity

Tiwari said there was a general consensus that the policy of economic reform through liberalisation had made a very positive contribution to the development of the Indian economy and the government was committed to it.

He said even though agricul-

ture was the dominant economic activity, its impact on the rest of the economy had been less intense due to the successes achieved through the policy of trade liberalisation.

Problems

The finance minister said that in a liberal and competitive economic regime, some of the factors failed to adjust their operations and were left behind. Also, due to constraints of fact or mobility, problems of adjustment arose in the short term.

He agreed that some of the monopoly interests felt threatened by the emerging forces of competition. This might be an imaginary fear but then it might nevertheless provide a resistance to radical reform, the minister said.

Tiwari said there could be problems of labour displacement

and retraining. In a democratic set up, due allowance had to be made for the interests of different strata of society and the pace of reforms had to be adjusted in order to obtain wider political acceptance.

The finance minister said the idea behind liberalisation was to make the economy more competitive so that goods and services were available to all sections of society at reasonable prices.

Tiwari said experience had shown that reduction in taxation led to higher tax realisation, thereby providing more resources for development functions. This was how continued liberalisation and tax reduction indirectly helped the poorer sections of the society.

On the growth in GNP, the finance minister said the country's gross domestic savings as

percentage of GDP at present was 22 per cent and the gross domestic capital formation was 23 to 24 per cent. For developing countries, he felt, this was a very high rate.

However, despite this high rate of capital formation the growth rate of the economy was five per cent only.

Plan

He said as envisaged in the plan, both the rate of saving and capital formation had to be stepped up further through mobilisation of additional resources. Simultaneously, the efficiency of investment had to be improved manifold.

Tiwari said if the monsoon during the year remained normal and agricultural production, as expected, recovered, GNP in 1988-89 might exceed the growth rate of five per cent achieved during the sixth plan.

EEC presents textile trade plan to GATT

GENEVA, May 22, (Reuters): The European Economic Community yesterday presented a proposal to the 96-nation GATT under which the agency's free trade rules would be applied progressively to textiles and clothing.

It reaffirmed a ministerial pledge made in September, 1986, at the launch of GATT's Uruguay round of trade talks calling for the eventual phasing out of the international multi-fibre agreement (MFA).

The proposal was submitted to the textile group of the four-year round of talks, one of 14 negotiating groups aiming to liberalise world trade.

Conditions

The MFA sets overall conditions under which importing member countries can negotiate bilateral quotas with suppliers. It is the major exception to GATT free trade rules, although it is administered by the textiles committee of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

EEC chief negotiator Tran Van Thinh told a news briefing: "We are taking the initiative as textile importing countries to launch the negotiating process. We are prepared to negotiate the return of the multi-fibre agreement into the GATT."

The 54-nation multi-fibre agreement (MFA) was renewed

in July, 1986, for five years. It began in 1974 and was expanded under this fourth extension — at US insistence — to cover all fibres, including vegetable fibres, silk blends and ramie (a linen-like fabric).

Proposal

The EEC proposal said the 12-nation bloc had imported 54 per cent more textile and clothing products over the past two years. It gave no figures.

"Our markets are already very open," an EEC negotiator told Reuters. "But we can't export a single shirt into South Korea. Textile exporting countries have to show a readiness to have equivalent levels of market opening."

The EEC paper called for more data on global production capacity and consumption of textiles, adding: "This will enable the group to assess whether these trends are compatible, and thus build up a better appreciation of the prospects for the development of trade in future years."

Process

"It seems that the integration into GATT will have to take place progressively on the basis of a process common to all participants for the implementation of strengthened disciplines and for the actual opening of markets in a framework which encompasses all the products of the sector,"

the EEC plan said.

An EEC delegate said: "There is no timetable. The idea is to have a framework solution by the end of the round in December 1990, but the timetable is one element of the negotiation."

The EEC paper called for

simultaneous progress in other negotiating groups of the Uruguay round to permit integration of the textiles group into the GATT citing those assigned to control dumping and reducing subsidies and non-tariff measures.

ATTENTION! NON-RESIDENT INDIANS

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General Manager of
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1986: £86,000



1988: £125,000



1990: ?

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CURRENCY & BUSINESS

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 23, 1988

Industrial production up

US economy is continuing present momentum

WITH the markets concentrating this week on the US trade numbers, the interpretation of the figures was not as would normally be expected. The far better than market anticipated March trade deficit whilst providing the dollar with only a modest uplook, before falling back, was considered on balance bad news for the bond and equity markets.

on the week the US unit has remained virtually unchanged at Y124.9 and DM1.70. Industrial production increased 0.7 per cent in April following a revised rise of 0.7 per cent in March. The major contributory factor to the April increase was a push in durable goods production reflecting high car and home appliance products.

Housing Starts rose 0.5 per cent in April to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,561,000 units. This was the third consecutive rise following gains of 2.3 per cent in March. Consumer Price index increased a seasonally adjusted 0.4 per cent in April after a 0.5 per cent rise in March. Over half of the increase reflected gains in clothing, food and beverage prices.

As anticipated the sterling markets took advantage of the conflict between the prime minister and her chancellor over exchange rate policy to test the pound's value. This took the cross £/DM rate to near 3.20. This required quick reconciliation between the two opposing factions. With the possibility that the chancellor could resign the prime minister capitulated and agreed that policy should be governed by exchange rate considerations and a half per cent cut in base rates was effected to reduce sterling's pressure.

evidence that the economy is exceedingly buoyant and alone does not require an interest rate cut. Retail sales increased a provisional 0.2 per cent in April following a final increase of 0.15 per cent in March. The year-on-year rise was 4.5 per cent. Public sector borrowing requirement in April was in surplus by £933 million compared with a deficit of £3.8 bn in March.

Production In addition the increase in capacity utilisation reinforces this position. As a consequence sentiment continues to bear heavily on the requirement to increase interest rates in order to stem future inflationary pressures. The resultant implications was to send bond and equity prices lower. Apart from the immediate uptick in the dollar,

Merchandise Trade Deficit was \$9.75 billion in March and followed a \$13.83 billion in February. Exports rose 23 per cent to a record \$28.97 billion. The major increase by sector was in manufacturing which increased to \$19.8 billion from \$16.07 billion in February. This reflected a rise in the export of telecommunications, cars, computers, machinery and aircraft.

Imports increased just 3.6 per cent to \$38.72 billion. Oil imports fell in March to \$3.24 billion from a previous \$3.82 billion in February. Capacity utilisation increased 0.3 per cent on the month to 82.6 per cent.

On top of which the better than anticipated US trade numbers also helped to take some of the steam out of the sterling market. Over the week the pound edged lower and finished at DM3.175. Domestically however, the batch of indicators continues to provide strong

Opec assets growing, says study

ASSETS of 13 Opec countries held by international commercial banks soared by \$8,400 million in the fourth quarter of 1987, according to the latest report of the Basel-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS). This represented the biggest increase since the third quarter of 1980 and came at a time of general slowdown in the level of international banking activity, BIS reported.

The UAE's net position also strengthened unexpectedly in the fourth quarter, rising by \$2,477 million after remaining fairly stable in 1987. Kuwait's position in the fourth quarter increased by \$953 million, Libya's by \$409 million and Qatar's by \$293 million. Iran showed a steady growth in net assets in 1987. A \$264 million increase in the final quarter was part of a \$1,000 million improvement over the year. Net assets in December 1987 were \$5,859 million. Iraq's indebtedness to the BIS banks improved slightly to end at \$5,802 million, a 19 per cent increase on December 1986.

The deployment of oil exporting countries' funds was analysed in the Bank of England's (central bank authority's) May 1988 financial bulletin. The most striking feature was a \$2,300 million (\$4,300 million) increase in net investment in the UK. This was primarily due to the Kuwait Investment Office's (KIO's) purchase of shares in British Petroleum (BP), which accounted for £1,900 million (\$3,534 million) of the total. Overall investment in the UK by the oil exporters was up by 19 per cent on December 1987 at £67,700 million (\$126,000 million).

£65,100 million (\$121,000 million). However, investments in government deposits increased by £1,800 million (\$3,500 million) to £22,500 (\$42,000 million), the report says. The Bank of England bulletin also noted that Bahrain's position as an offshore banking centre had declined compared with its rivals between December 1980-June 1987. In 1980, Bahrain accounted for 8.7 per cent of all lending by the world's seven main offshore banking centres; this declined to 6.5 per cent in June 1987. The bank noted that the island's external assets reached \$55,000 million at the end of 1984 and has since fluctuated around \$50,000 million.

Wall Street in the grip of bear market

NEW YORK, May 22, (Reuters): It took good news to prove that Wall Street may be in bad shape. Last week the United States reported a stunning improvement in its trade deficit. But stocks tumbled to a three-month low, despite Tuesday's report that the troubling US trade deficit had dropped 30 per cent to \$9.75 billion in March.

good news — has been satisfied. That's why many analysts say Wall Street is in a bear market — a length period of steadily declining prices. The only question is, how long it will last? This week the Dow Jones industrial average fell 37.96 points, or about 1.9 per cent, to close on Friday at 1,952.59.

back 150 points and the experts say the market will make little headway this year in a trading range between 1,800 and 2,100. Investors were shaken when federal regulators were unable recently to agree on stock market reforms in the aftermath of the October crash, said Bob Christian of Provident National Bank in Philadelphia.

"Now, watching the market is like watching paint dry," said Kevin Brennan, a Prudential-Bache Securities senior vice president for investments. Trading volume on the New York Stock Exchange sank to the lowest level of 1988 on Friday, as only 120 million shares changed hands. Brennan, who works as a broker in the New York suburb of Red Bank, N.J., now earns more fees by shifting his clients' funds into bonds.

One Fixed Deposit gives you high returns and life insurance. Citilife Plus from Citibank India Investments. Includes details about the product, contact information, and a coupon for more information.

Arab airlines seek to delay anti-noise ruling

DAMASCUS, May 22, (Reuters): Moves by Western countries to ban ageing and noisy aircraft from their airports are really aimed at promoting sales of newer planes, a senior Arab aviation official said today.

Arab airlines are seeking a delay in a ruling which would stop many Boeing 727s from using Western airports by 1992. Major-General Adnan Al Jabi told Reuters.

Jabi, Director-general of Syrian Air and president of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (Aco) said the move would cost developing countries hundreds of millions of dollars with disastrous consequences for their economies. "We believe the main objective behind the adoption of this decision was to open a new market for the new types of planes which are now stocking the market," he said in an interview.

Fera violations

BOMBAY, May 22: Enforcement Directorate sleuths arrested nine persons and recovered documents showing foreign exchange evasion to the tune of Rs 11 crore from various parties here last week, according to the daily Indian Express.

Producing the persons before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court here last week after having detained them on Wednesday, officers were able to have one remanded but the rest were released on bail.

These arrests were a part of the nationwide swoop by the Enforcement Directorate on compensatory payment racketeers. One of the arrests was that of a car dealer involved in importing cars under transfer of residence certificates. The dealer, Mohammed Salim Khan, admitted to having imported under this scheme cars worth Rs 1 crore.

KUWAIT

Table with 6 columns: BANK SECTOR, P. CLS, LT, HIGH, LOW, VOL, TRADE. Lists various banks and their financial data.

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with 6 columns: COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET, P. CLS, LT, HIGH, LOW, VOL, TRADE. Lists various companies and their stock data.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

Table with 4 columns: SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIKH PORT AS ON 22/5/88, B.No., Ship Name, Agent, Tel No. Lists ship arrivals and agents.

Short-dated KD rates drop

SHORT-DATED Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates fell for the second consecutive day yesterday as government salary payments boosted liquidity.

Dealers expected rates to remain low as a large issue of three-month Treasury bills matures on Wednesday. But they said it was unclear how much of the KD 200 million issue had already been bought back by the Central Bank.

Liquidity had been tight until Saturday mainly because of new Treasury bill issues. Overnight offers plunged to one per cent from five per cent on Saturday but there were few or no bids. Tomorrow-next was offered at three per cent, again without bids, while spot-next held to Saturday levels of 5-1/2, 4-1/2 per cent.

The fixed periods were quiet except for some business in the three-month maturity at 6-1/2 per cent. All maturities were put at 6-5/8, 1-1/4 per cent, near Saturday's ranges. The Central Bank dinar exchange rate was unchanged from Saturday at 0.27449/59 to the dollar. Commercial banks quoted spot rates of around 0.27464/72.

THE GULF BANK

Exchange Service. Tel: 2438056, 2447131. 8.30 to 12 noon; 7.30 to 8.30 pm.

AMMAN

Table with 2 columns: OPNG, CLSC. Lists various companies and their stock data.

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Table with 3 columns: Period, Bid, Offered. Lists interest rates for different periods.

Al Hanif for Riyadh

KUWAIT'S Finance Undersecretary Abdel Mohsen Al Hanif yesterday left for Riyadh, to attend the third meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council finance undersecretaries scheduled to open today.

The meeting will coordinate among the GCC finance ministries and review technical reports in respect of budget drafting. Al Hanif is accompanied by the head of the budget department Abdel Wahab Al Mezzani and economic researcher Hamed Al Dabbous.

Meanwhile, the GCC finance and economy ministers will meet in Riyadh tomorrow.

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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FAHAHEEL, main Makkah Road, near Sabah Bakery. One big room for Goans/Mangaloreans, Filipinos, family/bachelors/spinsters to share with a family. Tele. Victor, 3924194, after 4.30 pm.
(AT3-42350-3)

SALMIYA, near petrol pump, firebrigade, two rooms in a furnished flat with tele. facilities for a couple, working girls or executive bachelors. Rent KD30 each person. Tele. Mr. Shaikh, 5612240.
(AT1-42326-3)

SALMIYA, Amman Street. Single room, furnished, for a single male or female from 1st June to share with a Tamilian family. Tele. 5659257.
(AT3-42357-3)

SALMIYA, behind Mercedes showroom, for Indian, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan bachelors to share with bachelors. Bus 15, 19, 24, 519, 30. Tele. 5749750 from 10 am - 9 pm.
(AT8-42307-3)

SALWA, House 196, Block 7, behind Iran Shop. One big room with kitchen, water and electricity for a family/bachelors, to share with an Indian family. Rent KDE0. Tele. 5611243
(AT2-42338-6)

KUWAIT City, Fahad Al Salem Street. Accommodation in a flat, fully furnished, for one working girl, preferably Filipino to share with a couple. Tele. Mrs. Jean, 2437807, 9.30 am - 1 pm, 9024191, 4.30 - 9 pm.
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(AT1-42264-3)

MERCEDES 280 SE, Al Bisher 1977, black metallic, fully automatic, for a quick sale. KD975. Tele. Mr. Ashlan, 4878197 (answer phone).
(AT2-42353-3)

MERCEDES 230 E '84, 4 doors, dark blue, automatic gear, AC, window in the roof, power steering, power brake, central lock, automatic aerial, KD3400. Tele. 4744142, 4-8 pm.
(AT1-42327-3)

AUDI 100 CD Avant, 1984, very low mileage, 28,000 kms. Must sell, in excellent condition. KD2,500. Tele. 5652385, any time.
(AT1-42315-3)

HONDA Civic 1977, manual, AC, recently resprayed white, very reliable, KD350. Tele. Mr. Ashlan, 4878197 (answer phone) anytime.
(AT2-42353-3)

VOLVO Estate 1983, very low mileage, regularly maintained, in immaculate condition. One owner. KD2050. Tele. 4810844 (Volvo).
(AT2-42344-3)

TOYOTA Land Cruiser, 4-wheel drive, 1985, deluxe model, electric windows, sunroof, automatic with overdrive, 51,000 kms, in excellent condition, KD2000. No bargaining. Tele. 3946128, after 5 pm.
(AT1-42312-3)

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(AT2-42333-3)

JAGUAR XJS, 1980, in excellent condition. Must sell, owner leaving Kuwait. KD1,500. Tele. 5652385, any time.
(AT1-42315-3)

NISSAN Cherry 1.5GL, 1985 model, blue colour, automatic, four door hatchback, sunroof, AC, power steering, stereo cassette and radio. Driven by a lady. In excellent condition. KD950. Tele. 2404573.
(AT2-42332-2)

HONDA Civic 1984 model, automatic, 4 doors, silver colour, in excellent condition, KD 1000. Tele. 5657857.
(AT3-42365-3)

Furniture

DOUBLE bed, dressing-table with mirror in good condition, used one year KD150. Tele. 5633087, 1-4 pm.
(AT2-42349-2)

Miscellaneous

ABU Bakr Street behind Sheraton and Iraqi Centre; flat, fully furnished, 2 rooms, 1 hall with tele. line for sale. New rent KD160. Tele. Mohammad Ali, 2411794.
(AT1-42321-3)

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(AT3-42359-2)

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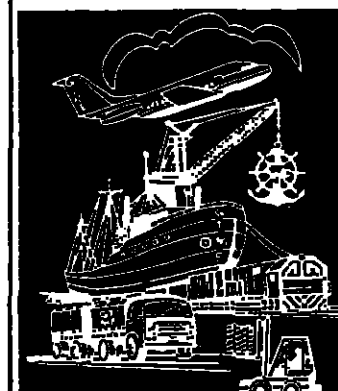
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BASEBALL
ROUNDUPRangers
outclass
Twins

NEW YORK, May 22, (AP): Paul Kilgus pitched seven perfect innings before Gary Gaetti led off the top of the eighth with a double for Minnesota's only hit as the Texas Rangers beat the Twins 3-0 last night.

Kilgus, 6-3, became the eighth Texas pitcher to take a no-hitter into the eighth inning but Gaetti hit a hard line drive to left-centre field on a 1-0 pitch.

Red Sox 8, Angels 4
Mike Greenwell drove in four runs with a three-run homer and a run-scoring single, leading Boston past California.

Greenwell singled home a run in the first off Ray Krawczyk then hit a three-run homer in the third to put the Red Sox ahead 5-3.

Tigers 3, White Sox 1
Chet Lemon and Darrell Evans hit solo home runs and Jack Morris allowed five hits in seven innings as Detroit beat Chicago 3-1, sending the White Sox to their sixth straight defeat. Morris, 4-5, entered the game having lost five of his last six decisions, but he cruised through the first six innings.

Yankees 3, Athletics 2
Rick Rhoden, who came off the disabled list yesterday, pitched five strong innings for his first victory since opening day as New York defeated Oakland 3-2.

Indians 9, Royals 5
Ron Kittle, Julio Franco and Cory Snyder hit home runs to power Cleveland past Kansas City 9-5.

The Victory improved the Indians, who have won nine of their last 11, to 26-15. Last season, Cleveland did not win its 26th game until June 30 when they were 26-49.

Results			
American League			
Boston	8	California	4
Detroit	3	Chicago	1
New York	3	Oakland	2
Baltimore	3	Seattle	1
Cleveland	9	Kansas City	3
Toronto	4	Milwaukee	2
Texas	3	Minnesota	0
National League			
Montreal	6	San Francisco	0
Chicago	11	Cincinnati	6
Pittsburgh	7	Atlanta	3
New York	4	Los Angeles	0
Philadelphia	4	San Diego	3
St. Louis	7	Houston	4

W. INDIES SEEK TO REVERSE LOSING TREND

Richards comes under fire



Richards: criticised

LONDON, May 22, (Reuters): Viv Richards once again found his qualities as a one-day captain called into question as West Indies' cricketers prepared today to prevent England making a clean sweep of the limited-over series.

Former England captain Ted Dexter was among those who criticised Richards' performance as captain at Headingley yesterday when England won by 47 runs to take a 2-0 lead in the three-match series. The third and final game is at Lord's tomorrow.

Blunder
Dexter, reporting the match for a Sunday newspaper, described as "a tactical blunder" Richards' decision to bowl himself and Phil Simmons for "six more overs than necessary."

"That meant England's batsmen had two less overs to face from the feared Malcolm Marshall and four overs less of Curtley Ambrose," Dexter said.

Former England fast bowler Fred Trueman questioned the decision not to bring Marshall on until 13 overs had been bowled and described as "amazing" the fact that Richards and Simmons shared 17 overs.

Richards endured considerable criticism during his team's unsuccessful World Cup campaign in Pakistan and India last October when West Indies, who reached the final of the first three tournaments under Clive Lloyd, failed to make the semifinals.

Other newspapers also focused on the role of the West Indian captain in England's success — "England feast on Richards bounty," ran one headline — and Man of the Match Derek Pringle, who profited more than anyone from the extra overs of Richards and Simmons, said he was "puzzled" by the overs distribution.

While Richards was left to ponder the criticism, Pringle was being acclaimed exactly a week after his selection was widely ridiculed. One critic said that after picking Pringle the selectors were "immediately identifiable by the gun-shot wounds in both feet."

It was pointed out that Pringle took one for 148 in three World Cup matches, was ponderous in the field and lacked class as a batsman on the international stage.

But at Headingley he took full advantage of the relatively harmless bowling of Richards

and Simmons to compile England's top score of 39 and made maximum use of a pitch off which the ball seemed through-out the day, finishing with three for 30.

With a five-Test series to follow the one-day games, the batting is West Indies' major concern.

At the top of the order Simmons looks unlikely to be a heavy scorer in English conditions unless he moves his front foot more to counteract seam and swing and there is a lack of real substance in the middle-order where West Indies could once count on Lloyd or Larry Gomes to rally an innings in the event of a slump.

Adjusting
That said, these are early days with a number of the batsmen still adjusting to English pitches and the fast bowlers keeping their powder dry before the Tests. Marshall, in particular, can be expected to increase his pace as the effects of his leg injury wear off.

But the immediate task is to reverse the losing trend at Lord's tomorrow. West Indies have now lost eight of their last nine one-day games against England.

Kuwait share
top spot

FLORENCE, Italy, May 22, (AP): Italy, Sweden, and Kuwait, all won to force a three-way tie for first in the men's Olympic volleyball qualifying rounds here yesterday.

The winner of the six-team round-robin tournament earns the final berth in the men's volleyball competition for this summer Olympics in Seoul.

Kuwait defeated Algeria 15-5, 15-10, 13-15, 15-7 and Italy, playing in front of its home fans, ripped Canada, 15-4, 15-5, 15-7.

In the evening match, Sweden became the third undefeated team, downing Taiwan 15-5, 15-6, 11-15, 15-4.

Standings (tabulate under — played, won, lost, points):

Italy	2	2	0	4
Kuwait	2	2	0	4
Sweden	2	2	0	4
Canada	2	0	2	0
Algeria	2	0	2	0
Taiwan	2	0	2	0



Risen Star (left) moves ahead of Brian's Time (centre) and Winning Colors in midstretch. (Reuters wirephoto)

Risen Star triumphs

BALTIMORE, Md., May 22, (Reuters): Risen Star took the lead entering the stretch and drew away to a one and 1/4-length victory yesterday in the 113th Preakness Stakes, the second leg of American racing's triple crown.

Brian's Time was second, one and 1/4 lengths ahead of Winning Colors, winner of the Kentucky Derby and the 19-10 favourite here.

Record

Risen Star ran the one and 3/16-mile race in one minute, 56 and 1/5 seconds, nearly three seconds off the record for the Preakness Stakes.

Eddie Delahoussaye rode Risen Star, a son of 1973 triple crown winner Secretariat. The colt was the fourth choice at 6-1 odds in a field of nine 3-year-olds.

Forty Niner and Winning Colors led for much of the way before Delahoussaye took Risen Star along the rail. The colt drew clear in midstretch and held off a belated bid by Brian's Time.

Winning Colors, the only filly in the field, failed in her bid to become the first filly to win both the Derby and Preakness.

Risen Star's victory added an ironic twist to the race, his trainer, Louis Roussel III, told reporters earlier this week that he was "99 per cent sure" the colt would pass up the Preakness, because rain during the week prior to the race had made the track sloppy.

But the track dried considerably and by post time it was rated good.

Lakers reach NBA final

LOS ANGELES, May 22, (Reuters): Byron Scott pumped in 29 points to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 109-98 victory over the Utah Jazz yesterday and a berth in the National Basketball Association's Western Conference finals.

The Lakers, who used their famed fast break throughout the seventh game of the best-of-seven series, gained the conference finals for the seventh consecutive year.

They will begin their best-of-seven conference championship

series against the Dallas Mavericks tomorrow.

Ervin "Magic" Johnson contributed 23 points and 16 assists for the Lakers, who were never behind in the game, despite 31 points and 15 rebounds by Utah power forward Karl Malone and John Stockton's 29 points and 20 assists.

Los Angeles, which has won four world championship titles since 1980, is bidding to become the first team to repeat as NBA champions since the 1968-69 Boston Celtics.

Chen beats
Yoo for
Asian title

NIIGATA, Japan, May 22, (Reuters): China's Chen Longcan today won the Asian table tennis championships men's singles and attributed his victory to three cups of coffee drunk just before the game.

Chen, the world's third-ranking player, beat South Korea's Yoo Nam-Kyu 21-18 21-13 21-13 to give China a total of four out of seven titles in the tournament, with South Korea winning the other three.

Yoo beat world champion and defending Asian champion, China's Jiang Jialiang, to gain a place in the final, but Chen, 24, proved too strong for him.

"In the last couple of days, I haven't been feeling too wide-awake, so I didn't play as well as I'd like, but after three cups of coffee today, I was more alert," Chen said.

China's He Zhibi, women's world champion, won her third Asian title in a row by beating compatriot Jiao Zhimin 21-12 19-21 21-13 21-9.

Ensuring

Jiao beat South Korea's Hyun Jung-Hwa 21-18 14-21 21-12 23-21 in the semifinal, thereby ensuring China of victory in the women's final.

China's defeat in the semifinal ended what has been a disappointing tournament for him. He lost in both the doubles and mixed doubles and dropped China's only set against the North Koreans in the team events.

"I've been sick recently, I didn't play as well as I can," Jiang said. "But it doesn't matter, you win some, you lose some."

Asked his opinion of Yoo's play, Jiang said: "I can beat him, he's good but I know I can beat him."

Both men's and women's event victors said their next aim was to win the gold medal at the Seoul Olympics in September, where table tennis will be featured for the first time.

Although China won the most coveted titles in the Asian tournament — the men's and women's singles — it lost three titles to South Korea, thereby conceding its dominance in Asian table tennis.

China had won all seven titles at every Asian tournament from 1980 to 1986.

First Prize
Honda CRX Car + two airline tickets to London

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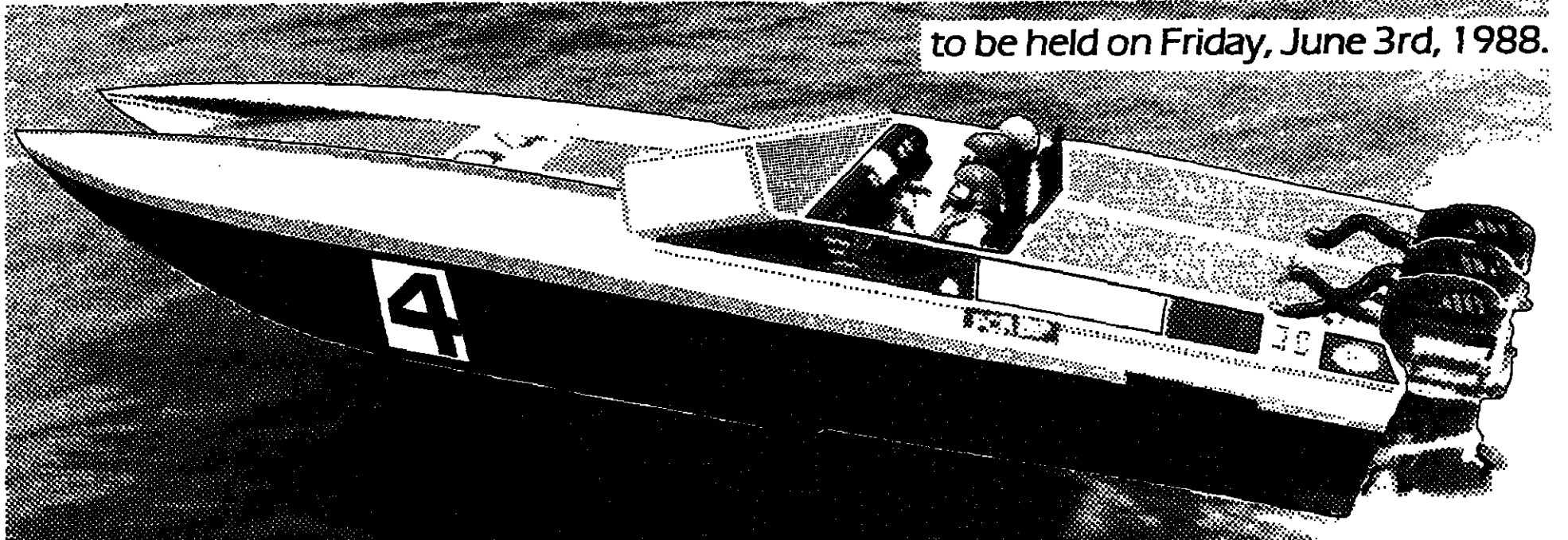
Arabic and English application forms and regulations will be available from Arab Times offices, SHAWALKH, Messilah Beach Hotel and Al Seyassah Trading and Marine Services Co. Salem Al Mubarak St. Salmiyah from Saturday afternoon, May 21st.



The Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers, in cooperation with Messilah Beach Hotel are organising

KUWAIT'S 2ND BI-ANNUAL
OFFSHORE POWERBOAT RACE

to be held on Friday, June 3rd, 1988.



The 61.1 Nautical mile race will start from the beach opposite the Messilah Beach Hotel.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Boats must be at least 18 ft in length.
- Engines must be outboard. If a single engine boat is used, an additional 10hp engine is advised. A maximum of two engines are allowed.
- Crew must have a minimum of two persons. All must be at least 18 years of age.
- Date June 3, 1988.
- The boat must be registered with the port authority of Kuwait, or if the boat is from outside Kuwait, with the authority for its port of origin.

Safety Requirements

- All participants must have the following equipment:
- A helmet and protective glasses.
- Lifejackets (inflatable life jackets not permitted).
- A marine compass (advanced electronic navigation equipment is prohibited).
- Anchor suitable for the size of the boat and a 25 metre (minimum) rope.
- At least three red safety flares and a fire extinguisher.
- Boats must be adequately supplied with fuel sufficient to cover the race distance.
- Any battery or fuel tank leakages must be well-checked and repaired before the race.
- Each boat should carry either a telephone or a 2 way radio system.

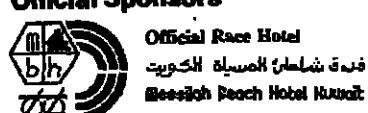
Failure to comply with the above regulations and safety requirements will result in disqualification. Scrutineering will be held prior to the race, and competitors must display their safety equipment on the deck of the boat.

Bulletins detailing further requirements/information will be issued from time to time.

- Participation is open to all Gulf Citizens and residents who have lived in the Gulf for a minimum of six months.
- Last date for accepting entries is May 30, 1988.

Entry fee per person KD 15,000

Official Sponsors



SPORTS

GARDNER FINISHES IN SECOND PLACE

Lawson wins Italian Grand Prix

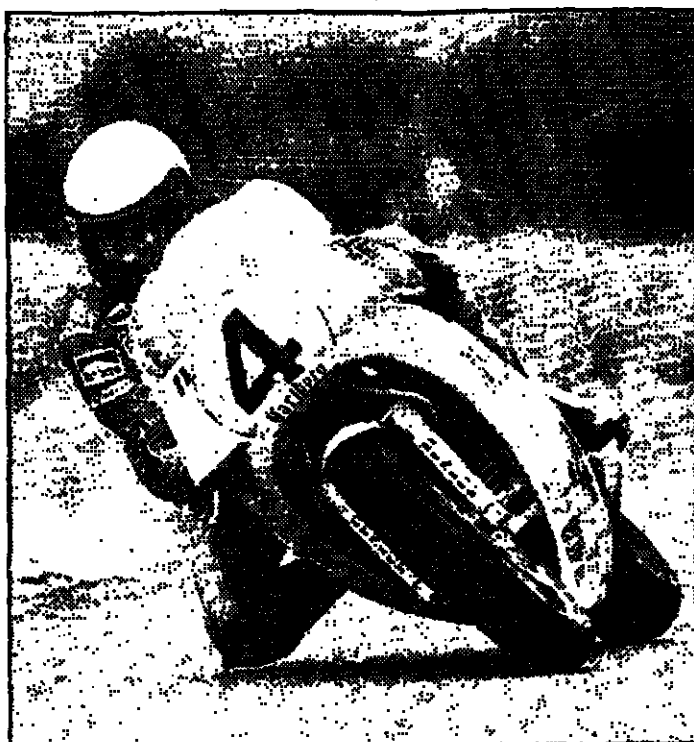
IMOLA, Italy, May 22. (Reuters) Eddie Lawson of the United States swept to his third victory this season in the Italian 500 cc motorcycle Grand Prix today to stretch his championship lead over titleholder Wayne Gardner.

Lawson, world champion in 1984 and 1986, led throughout the 25-lap race on a Yamaha and finished more than 15 seconds clear of second-placed Australian rival Gardner on a Honda.

Down

Yamaha rider Wayne Rainey, runner-up to compatriot Lawson in the Portuguese Grand Prix three weeks ago, was almost half a minute down on the winner in third place with American Kevin Schwantz fourth on a Suzuki. Lawson now has 92 points from five races, with Gardner, who has yet to win this season, 15 points back in second place. Rainey, competing in his first 500 cc season, stays third on 65.

Gardner, fastest in practice despite an injured left foot, battled back from a poor start to chip Lawson's lead down to 0.4 seconds by the 11th lap but slowed in the 15th by five seconds and never got back in contention.



Lawson stretches lead

"Wayne was pushing me really hard and it was a difficult race," Lawson said. "But when he

dropped five seconds I more or less knew I was going to win." Lawson has now won the US.

Portuguese and Italian Grands Prix and has not been out of the top three places all season. But, with 11 races to come, he said it was too soon to feel confident of ending as champion.

"There are just too many races left and too much that could happen," he said. Raimond Roche of France, who finished ninth, suffered a broken ankle in a collision with Tadaiko Taira of Japan after the finish line, officials said.

Lawson's Belgian teammate Didier de Radigues and Frenchman Christian Sarron both crashed out of the race but neither was seriously hurt.

However, Sarron's younger brother, Dominique, made amends in the 250 cc class with his first win this season after a duel with championship leader Sito Pons of Spain.

Honda rider Sarron jumped to fourth from sixth in the overall standings but Pons, also on a Honda, extended his lead to three points over compatriot Juan Garriga, who finished third on a Yamaha.

Five times world champion Anton Mang of West Germany, winner of the opening race in Japan, finished a distant 10th

and slipped a place to sixth overall.

World champion Jorge Martinez of Spain, winner of yesterday's 125 cc race, led for all but one early lap in the 80 cc event to secure his second chequered flag of the meeting.

Krauser rider Stephan Dorflinger of Switzerland battled into second place but was still 5.35 seconds down on the winner with Martinez's Spanish Derbi teammate Manuel Herreros third.

Martinez stretched his 80 cc championship lead over Dorflinger to seven points after three races and has a 16-point lead in the 125 cc category over Italy's Gastone Grassetti.

Dragged

Gardner said later his injured foot had slipped off the pedal and dragged along the grass when he veered off the track in the 15th lap and that he was in great pain for the rest of the race.

He raced with his foot heavily bandaged after injuring it a week ago testing out chassis improvements to his Honda. Team sources said Gardner had several hairline fractures but that the injury was not likely to stop him racing.



England's Richard Harding (left) receives a pass from Dean Richards whose progress is stopped by a Queensland defender. (Reuters wirephoto)

Webb takes England past tough Queensland

BRISBANE, Australia, May 22. (AP) Fullback Jonathan Webb led England to a 22-18 victory over Australian state team Queensland at Ballymore today in the second match of its eight-game Rugby Union tour of Australia.

Webb kicked a conversion and three penalties, broke through the Queensland defence on a number of occasions and set up the decisive try for winger Barry Evans.

Stiffer

The visitors ran in two tries to one to boost their tour record to 2-0 following their victory over Queensland country in MacKay on Tuesday, but they found Queensland much stiffer opposition.

Queensland led 6-0 early in the match, but England rallied with

tries from prop Jeff Probyn and Evans.

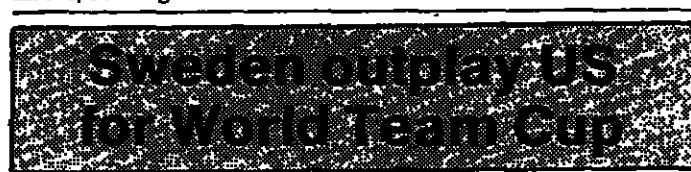
England led 12-9 at half-time. Manager Geoff Cooke said he was disappointed with England's performance despite the victory. "We are making too many errors and they are basic errors at that," he said. "We are still rusty and the first Test is only a week away."

The tourists face Australia in the first Test at Ballymore next Sunday.

An injury to centre John Buckton soured the English win in a match which seldom rose to great heights.

Buckton was badly concussed 25 minutes into the game but played on a further 10 minutes before being replaced.

"It's the end of the tour for him," said Cooke.



Jonathan Webb leads England's victory over Queensland.

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 22. (Reuters) Sweden won the World Team Cup for the first time today, taking both singles matches on the way to a 2-1 triumph over the United States.

Stefan Edberg beat Tim Mayotte 6-4 6-2 in a battle between two players more comfortable on faster surfaces and Kent Carlsson defeated Aaron Krickstein 6-4 6-3 in a match between two players very much at home on the clay courts here.

The United States won the concluding doubles, Ken Flach and Robert Seguso defeating Edberg and Anders Jarryd 6-7 (3-7) 6-3 7-6 (7-4).

Better

With the world's premier clay tournament, the French Open starting tomorrow, both Edberg and Carlsson said they were happy with their form.

"I played better and better as the match went on," said Edberg, seeded second in Paris and beaten by Czechoslovakia's Tomas Smid here two days before the final.

"We didn't want my best tennis this week, it's next week that counts."

Injured and ill earlier in this tournament, Carlsson won the seventh seed for the French Open — was playing in his first match here.

"My feeling is I'm playing my best tennis at the moment," he said. "Everything was feeling very good — I think it was one of my best matches ever."

Three-times winners of the Cup, the Americans were outclassed by the Swedes, who finally won on their ninth attempt.

Mayotte double-faulted at all three critical points in his match. He broke Edberg in the opening game and led 4-2 but won only three points in the set.

He double-faulted with set point against him during a string of six successive losing games, and dropped service in similar fashion in the sixth and eighth games of the second set to lose the match.

Broke

"I got a little nervous and missed some shots that I shouldn't have missed," Mayotte said, adding that he did not have high expectations for the French Open where he is seeded eighth. Krickstein began with an ace, but his match with Carlsson quickly settled into a more predictable routine of long baseline rallies, looping topspin shots and patience.

After an hour's play, Carlsson broke Krickstein's service to take a 5-4 lead in the first set. Carlsson broke again in the fifth game of the second set, and three games later survived break point against him — Krickstein netted — to set up victory.

Kerala and Camy reach semifinals

KERALA SPORTS 'B' and Camy reached the semifinals of the Jimmy George Memorial Trophy volleyball tournament at the Fahahel ground on Friday.

Kerala scored a 15-4 15-9 victory over Vandana Sports but Camy were taken to three sets before they won 15-13 15-12 against Fernandez Brothers.

The Camy-Fernandez match started with the former taking the first nine points before Fernandez got into the game. After losing the first set easily, Fernandez were in no mood to let their opponents have their way in the second. Fernandez put up a brilliant game to even the match by winning the closely fought second set.

Former

The third set was also even with Camy eventually victors.

The second game between Kerala and Vandana was a one-sided affair with the former not allowing their opponents to settle down.

Camy will now meet Al Jahili in the semifinal while Kerala take on Royal Sports Club. Both the matches will be held on Friday, May 27, with the first match starting at 6.30 am and the second at 7.30 am.

Goan Sporting beat Varca for Goans Cup

GOAN SPORTING won the Goans Cup 7-a-side soccer tournament, organised by the Young Goans' Association and supervised by the Indian Football Referees Association, at the Seor grounds earlier this week.

A total of 14 teams took part in the tournament. The teams were divided into two groups with New Indian School, Varca Sporting Centre, Goan Sporting and Robby Seven reaching the semifinals.

Goan Sporting and Varca Sporting overcame their opponents to set up an action packed final which the former won by three goals to one.

Penalty

Caitano (Cajti) Godinho, Tony D'Costa and Isaac Rodrigues scored for the winners while Caitano D'Souza got the only goal for Varca off a penalty kick.

A special trophy for the Best Disciplined Team was awarded to the New Indian School team. The prizes were presented to the winners and runners-up by Mr and Mrs Michael J. Crasto.

Colonial golf

FORT WORTH, Texas, May 22. (Reuters) American Clarence Rose birdied four of the first six holes on the back nine yesterday to soar to a three-stroke lead after three rounds of the \$750,000 Colonial National Invitation golf tournament.

Rose, 30, who has not won in seven years on the PGA Tour, finished the day with a five-under-par 65 for a total of ten under-par 200 at the Colonial Country Club.

Princess' horse

LONDON, May 22. (Reuters) Princess Anne's horse collapsed and died after coming third in a race yesterday. The Princess was unhurt.

Wilander eyes Lendl's crown

PARIS, May 22. (Reuters) Whatever events unfold at Roland Garros tomorrow one thing is certain, the first day of the 1988 French Open tennis championships can only be an improvement on the last day of the 1987 tournament.

Defending women's champion Steffi Graf has been given the honour of opening the championships on centre court where her meeting with Nathalie Guerin, the French number 21, is likely to be brief and to the point.

Alas, the same could not be said of the men's final last year when Ivan Lendl beat Mats Wilander in a match that lasted four and a half hours — but seemed much longer at the time. Eye witnesses still insist it was the first time they had ever seen stewards throwing people in the centre court, others claim that two of the middle-aged linesmen had begun the afternoon as ball-boys.

The grim news is that a repeat performance is a distinct possibility.

Wilander, champion of France in 1982 and 1985, arrived in Paris seeking to complete the second leg of the Grand Slam.

having won the Australian title at Flinders Park, Melbourne, last January.

The Swede, still only 23, has now won five Grand Slam championships — clay, grass and hard — something Bjorn Borg never achieved.

Recent defeats in Monte Carlo and Rome have seen Wilander slip to third in the world rankings, but he remains the dominant force in the bottom half of the draw which is also occupied by his second-seeded compatriot Stefan Edberg.

Wilander, who meets Czechoslovak Josef Cihak in the first round, rightly dismisses his form of the past month as irrelevant. "As important as they are, you can't compare Rome and Monte Carlo and with Roland Garros. "I am always heavy whenever I compete in the four Grand Slam championships. I play every point of every match with intensity, I am really happy just to be part of it all... the other 10 or 12 main tournaments are a job of work."

Despite his elevation to world number two, Edberg admits he will do well to reach the last 16 on

the slow clay of Paris. "It's going to be awfully difficult for me. It's not impossible, but I obviously have more chance of winning Wimbledon or the US Open."

Edberg, and first-round opponent Karel Novacek shared a rare claim to fame in 1987. The Czechoslovak beat Argentine Eduardo Bengoechea 6-0 6-0 6-0 at Roland Garros, and the Swede inflicted a similar beating on compatriot Stefan Eriksson at Wimbledon.

Like Edberg, Boris Becker is always vulnerable on clay though he surprised himself by reaching the semifinals at Roland Garros last year. "It's just not my style. I like black and white. I like to make things happen, not wait for them," he said adding wistfully: "But for two weeks, I'll try."

Becker, who is in Lendl's half of the draw, has a dangerous first-round opponent in Swiss Claudio Mezzadri and will have to show a marked improvement on his form of two weeks ago when he was beaten in straight sets by Frenchman Thierry Tulasne in the first round of the Italian Open.

Lendl, who has won the

French Open three times, triumphed in both Monte Carlo and Rome and should have little difficulty in extending his winning run at Roland Garros to 15 matches when he begins his defence against French wild-card entry Philippe Pech.

Unbeaten in Paris since losing the 1985 final to Wilander, Lendl has adopted a typically business-like approach. "It's a business," he said after practice today. "I have the same outlook as Steffi."

"I'll never be a Nastase, smiling and joking on court. But what did Nastase have to show for it... his titles never matched his talent. If you don't have the killer instinct, you're finished."

Fortunately for all concerned, not everyone shares Lendl's philosophy and John McEnroe, Andre Agassi, Yannick Noah and Henri Leconte among others should provide alternative entertainment over the next 14 days.

The women's championship — a four-cornered dispute involving Graf, Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert and Gabriela Sabatini — will not begin in earnest until the second week when there is every prospect of a fascinating finale.

Ireland sail past Poland

DUBLIN, Ireland, May 22. (AP) The Republic of Ireland continued its warm-up for this summer's European Soccer Championships with an impressive 3-1 victory over Poland in an exhibition game today.

First half goals by Kevin Sheedy, Tony Casarino and John Sheridan gave Ireland a formidable half-time lead and, although substitute Robert Warzycha pulled a goal back for the Poles in the second period, the Irish romped to their eighth successive victory.

Clearance

Some 18,500 fans at Lansdowne Road saw Sheedy fire the Irish ahead in the 12th minute from a free kick after Poland's goalkeeper, Jozsek Wandzik came out of his area and punched away a clearance.

Despite missing several key players through injury, the Irish looked menacing at every attack.

Merit to back Kuwaiti team

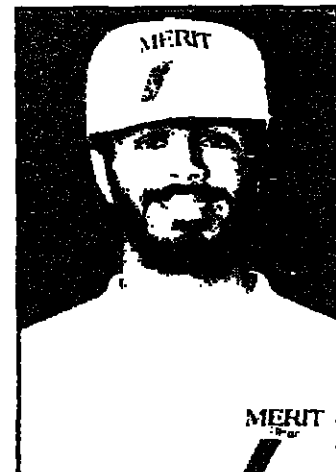
MISHAL AL JARALLAH, one of the competitors in the forthcoming Kuwait offshore powerboat race is to be sponsored by Merit, in his Cougar 27 Sports-Cat. The June 3 race, which is sponsored by the Arab Times/Al Seyassah Newspaper Group, will be run over 61 nautical miles.

Mishal is one of the pioneers of this new sport to the Gulf. He competed in the first Dubai race in 1986 and last year initiated the Kuwaiti event. Although the premier Kuwait race was affected by the weather, Mishal has scheduled two events for this year.

Powered

The Merit team has recently taken delivery of a new specially prepared Sports-Cat Catamaran Hull. Powered by two Mercury 2.4 RFI engines, it can reach a top speed of 85mph, which Mishal expects will suit Gulf conditions.

Fashioned on the highly successful Emirates Offshore



Mishal Al Jarallah

Powerboat race in Dubai, the Kuwait event will start opposite the Messilah Beach Hotel at 1 pm on Friday June 3, and finish at the same place one hour later. A large number of spectators are

expected on the day, as the annual raft race takes place at the same venue.

The regulations stipulate that boats must be more than 18ft long and be fitted with outboard engines. A crew of two members of over 18 years must be nominated with each entry. Participation is open to all Gulf residents and the organisers are hoping for between 40 — 50 local boats with some entries, also from the UAE.

"I expect this year's race to be very competitive, but I am also confident that my new boat will give me an edge over the other teams," said the 20-year-old Kuwaiti.

"We are keen to have all Gulf countries represented in this race," explained Mishal. Entries close on May 30th. Details and regulations may be obtained from Mishal Al Jarallah or Gail Seery. Tel: 4813566, Ext. 277 (11am — 5pm) or telex 22332.

Beckenbauer names side for Euro-tourney

NEUSS, West Germany, May 22. (Reuters) West German coach Franz Beckenbauer announced yesterday a squad of 20 for next month's European Soccer Championship that contained few surprises and showed faith in his large band of exiles.

Beckenbauer, under increasing pressure to gain his first title as head of the national team, as expected left out injured captain Klaus Allofs of Marseilles, who recently had a knee operation.

Fewer

Lothar Matthaus, who moves next season to Inter Milan, will probably take his place as captain, leading a squad which includes nine players with fewer than 10 caps each.

Since their 3-1 defeat of England in Duesseldorf last September the West Germans have gone worryingly off the boil and on present form the hosts will be severely tested to reach the semifinals in a group containing Italy, Spain and Denmark.

Verona defender Thomas Ber-

thold has been recalled but there is no place for Stefan Reuter or Armin Goetz. Bayern Munich's out-of-form left back Hans Pflueger could count himself lucky to get a call-up.

With fewer choices in midfield, Beckenbauer will probably bank on Matthaus, Bayer Leverkusen's Wolfgang Rolff and the highly talented Olaf Thon, who has rejected overtures from several foreign clubs to sign for Bayern Munich next season.

In attack, he has a mixture of form and experience. With Pierre Littbarski and Rudi Voeller disappointing in recent internationals, Beckenbauer could settle for Juergen Klinsmann, this year's top scorer in the League, as his main marksman.

There is no place in the 20 for strikers Frank Neubarth and Frank Ordenewitz, who were instrumental in taking Werder Bremen to the First Division title. Teammate Gunnar Sauer is the only uncapped player.

Beckenbauer can, if he wishes,



Thon (right): to play in midfield make changes before a May 31 deadline. The West Germans open the championship on June 10 against Italy in Duesseldorf, with the final in Munich on June 25.

Squad: (tabulate under — club, international appearances, international goals, age): Goalkeepers: Eike Immel

(Stuttgart, 14, 0, 27), Bodo Illgner (Cologne, 3, 0, 21).

Defence: Thomas Berthold (Hellas Verona, 25, 1, 23), Uli Borowka (Werder Bremen, 1, 0, 26), Andreas Brehme (Bayern Munich 35, 3, 27), Guido Buchwald (Stuttgart, 18, 0, 27), Matthias Herget (Bayer Uerdingen, 33, 4, 32), Juergen Kohler (Cologne, 14, 0, 22), Hans Pflueger (Bayern Munich, 6, 0, 28), Gunnar Sauer (Werder Bremen, 0, 0, 23).

Midfield: Hans Dorfner (Bayern Munich, 3, 0, 22), Lothar Matthaus (Inter Milan, 60, 5, 27), Wolfgang Rolff (Bayer Leverkusen, 30, 0, 28), Olaf Thon (Bayern Munich, 23, 2, 21), Wolfram Wuttke (Kaiserslautern, 3, 1, 26).

Attack: Dieter Eckstein (Nuremberg, 4, 0, 24), Juergen Klinsmann (Stuttgart, 4, 1, 23), Pierre Littbarski (Cologne, 53, 15, 28), Frank Mill (Borussia Dortmund, 9, 0, 29), Rudi Voeller (Roma, 48, 25, 28).

SPORTS BRIEFS

World record

HANIA, Crete, May 22. (Reuters) East German Ulf Timmermann set a world shotput record of 23.06 metres at an international athletics meeting on this Greek island today, officials said.

Barbarians win

LA ROCHELLE, France, May 22. (Reuters) The French Barbarians beat Ireland 41-26 (half-time 15-8) in the fourth and last match of Ireland's tour of France. Ireland won one game and lost three.

Kuwait team

KUWAIT'S under-19 soccer national team leaves next Wednesday for Kuala Lumpur for training, prior to the Maldives Asian tournament scheduled to start on June 17. Team members who have to sit for the General Secondary Certificate examinations will remain in Kuwait until the end of their exams but will be put on a special training programme.

Aoulita triumphs

SAN CRUZ DE TENERIFE, Spain, May 22. (AP) Said Aoulita of Morocco, who holds world records in the 1,500 and 2,000 metre events, won the 3,000 metre race in the international track and field meet yesterday.

Cycling mark

STUTTGART, West Germany, May 22. (Reuters) Italy's Francesco Moser set a world one-hour indoor cycling record of 50.645 km yesterday.

Rous Cup

LONDON, May 22. (Reuters) England captain Bryan Robson may miss Tuesday's Rous Cup game against Colombia, the last home match the side will play before the European Soccer Championship finals in West Germany.

Benfica captain

LISBON, May 22. (Reuters) Benfica captain Diamantino will miss Wednesday's European Cup final against PSV Eindhoven after tearing knee ligaments during a Portuguese league match yesterday.

LPGA tourney

KINGS ISLAND, Ohio, May 22. (Reuters) American Amy Alcott, who has won every major golf tournament on the tour except the LPGA Championship here, jumped to a two-stroke lead with a three-under-par 69 in the third round yesterday. American Amy Benz also shot a 69 on the day to bring her to two strokes off the pace.

Bridge

RESULTS of the Hubert Bridge Club game held on Saturday:

K/S
1. Shanti & Johnny
2. Sandra & Adel
3. Drexler & Kerli
and Pascal & Adam
E/W
1. Capt. Nick & Capt. Harrison
2. Cresten & Salman
3. Dhanra & Chandrasekhar

Results of the SAS Bridge Club game played yesterday:
1. Sandra Torrey & Gill Wille
2. Diane Felt & Neil Felt
3. Nicole Iskander & Ely Lammerts
End of the season bridge party for the SAS Ladies Bridge Club will be held on May 29 at 9 am.

ANNOUNCEMENT
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